FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PROSECUTION OF JUNTA MEMBERS BEGINS 30 DEC

PY312055 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The trial of the three military juntas between 1976 and 1982 by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces commenced yesterday when the defendants were formally notified of the court-martial proceedings. The nine top-ranking retired officers, who include three ex-presidents, face charges of homicide, "illegal restraint of freedom" and the torture of prisoners during the "dirty war" campaign against leftwing terrorism.

Of the nine junta members four appeared before the council yesterday morning. Retired Admiral Armando Lambruschini came first at 9 am, followed by ex-presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola between 10am and 11am. Finally, retired Air Force Brigadier-General Omar Grafigna appeared just before noon to shouts of "Murderer" from a small group of women. None of the four had any statements for the press and only Viola expressed his refusal to comment in words. Former President Leopoldo Galtieri, Retired Admirals Emilio Massera and Jorge Anaya together with Air Force Brigadier-Generals Orlando Agosti and Basilio Lami Dozo are all expected either today or Monday.

Commencement of the trial had not been considered feasible before the repeal of the amnesty law last Tuesday. According to Defence Minister Raul Borras, the aim of the court-martial is to establish the juntas' degree of responsibility for "illegal methods" of repression. The Supreme Council's verdict will be subject to appeal in civil courts. The Council is also court-martialling Galtieri, Anaya and Lami Dozo for their role in the Malvinas war. According to sources, Massera's appearance for notification purposes might well be waived since he is already imprisoned in connection with the disappearance of businessman Fernando Branca.

As ex-President Videla went to trial, an article by his economy minister, Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, appeared in the magazine LA SEMANA praising him as a "great patriot" and reminding his countrymen of assassination attempts against senior government officials such as Guillermo Klein and Juan Alemann. "The lives of 28 million Argentines were protected", argued Martinez de Hoz, who spoke of "self-defence". He admitted, however, that there "could have been excesses."

JUDGE SUMMONS FORMER BUENOS AIRES POLICE CHIEF

PY312147 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1742 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Dec (NA) -- Former Buenos Aires Province Police Chief General Ramon Camps, retired, has been summoned for questioning on 2 January in the case of the disappearance of scientist Alfredo Giorgi. There are doubts about Camps' appearing on 2 January, because he is now in Uruguay, and if he returns to Argentina he will not be able to leave again because of a specific resolution adopted for this purpose. The resolution was issued by San Martin Federal Judge Luis Cordoba, who is hearing the Giorgi case and who summoned Gen Camps to appear on Monday at 0900.

In connection with the same case, Colonel Ernesto Trotz, retired, a former Buenos Aires police deputy chief who lost an arm in a terrorist attack in 1977, was also summoned for 2 January at 1100.

Appearance in Court Reported

PY021812 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Today General Ramon Camps, retired, former police chief of Buenos Aires Province, appeared before Judge Luis Cordoba in the San Martin neighborhood to be questioned on the charges against him about the disappearance of Alfredo Giorgi, an official of the National Institute of Industrial Technology.

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY302140 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1844 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (NA) -- According to a Finance Ministry source, the main announcements which Minister Bernardo Grinspun will make this afternoon are as follows:

--A 30 percent increase in gasoline prices (exclusing fuel oil, diesel oil, and other transport fuel).

--A 12 percent increase in take-home wages [salario de bolsillo].

--Interest rates for January of 12.5 percent for credits and 11.5 percent for savings.

Grinspun will also announce a reform in the financial system and an increase in credits for the interior of the country. He will also report on a reactivation plan for different productive sectors.

Grinspun Announcements Detailed

PY312040 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] A twelve percent January take-home pay hike, a 30 percent increase in petrol prices, public tariff increases averaging 10 percent, and a three point drop in interest rates as of January 1, were announced by Economic Minister Bernardo Grinspun during a press conference held yesterday. The government later said the new petrol prices would take effect as of 12am this morning, with premium to cost $a 9.44 and standard $a 8.50 in the Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Cordoba areas.

Grinspun also outlined the government's "economic reactivation plan," announced measures designed to increase business loans in the interior of the country, and reiterated that the financial system would be reformed.

Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero, after meeting with Labour Minister Antonio Mucci over the government's price control policy, admitted the petrol price hike "objectively punishes middle-class sectors" but added "that's the price we have to pay." Mucci, meanwhile, backed what he called a "sincere policy" of taking the bull by the horns even if it means paying a political cost."

Grinspun added the government is "working on the basis of a projected inflationary rate (in January) of 10 percent" and said his ministry would "modify wage hikes if a greater than projected inflationary increase" were to occur.

After stating that the "psychological impact" of the petrol increase already took place due to recent press reports indicating hikes of up to 50 percent, Grinspun denied that the increase was "massive", arguing it would "only have a direct impact of 0.5 percent on the cost of living."

The 30 percent petrol increase, Grinspun said, will not apply to fuel and diesel oil nor to any energy source used by the transportation, agriculture and industrial sectors, and that as a result "consumer goods' prices should not increase" as much as petrol prices have.

It was also made known that the petrol price increase will be considered a government tax, all proceeds from which will go directly to the national treasury. As a result, the state-owned petroleum firm, YPF, and service stations will see their percentage share of petrol prices reduced.

Grinspun also emphasized that public tariff increases will "on the average" be of 10 percent and that certain state-owned firms such as the Greater Buenos Aires Power Company (SEGBA) would increase tariffs above 10 percent.

As part of planned incentives to business, Grinspun said the three point drop in the lending rate to borrowers, from 15.5 to 12.5 percent a month, "represents a 20 percent decline in the financial costs" of businesses. Grinspun added that the new 11.5 percent savings rate on 30 to 120 day accounts offers "savers a defence against inflation" since it is above January's projected cost of living increase.

In a move to stimulate the provincial development, Grinspun announced the government would "reduce the minimum reserve requirements" of banks lending in the interior from 86 percent to 82 percent, thereby increasing business loans and investment in those areas.

Grinspun also highlighted the government's "economic reactivation plan" which he divided into eight points covering housing construction, public investment, agrarian production, industrial reactivation, the development of mining and fishing industries, regional economies, and cooperative associations.

Domestic industry, Grinspun said, will be defended by an import system "protecting the internal market." The government later announced the official measures which take effect on Monday and include the continuation of import prohibitions on certain "non-essential goods" until June 30, 1984. In addition, military defence imports will have to be first authorized by the Defence or Interior Ministries.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON NEW ANTITERRORIST UNIT

PY311855 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] -- (NA) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli yesterday announced the creation of special anti-terrorist and judicial police forces as well as changes in the educational system of federal police officers. The announcements, made during last night's graduation ceremonies at the Federal Police Academy, imply a broad reorganization of the force.

The anti-terrorist unit, officially called the "Police Force for the Maintenance of Constitutional Order," is based on models used by "democratic countries that have been able to successfully defeat terrorism without having to use immoral methods," Troccoli said.

The unit "will be at the disposal of the courts," Troccoli later told the press, "and work to prevent terrorism and thus avoid its results." The judicial police force, Troccoli said, "will aid in the investigation of crimes and serve under the orders of the courts" adding that "trial judges will have at their disposal units trained in the areas they are investigating."

Troccoli also said changes in ways federal police officers are taught would be made, with new emphasis placed on "their democratic education." He added that "the intellectual and moral capacity of police professors" would henceforth reflect "a new police conscience." In his speech to graduates, Troccoli made clear that the government "does not want a police force at its service. You have to start understanding, then, that as policemen you are at the service of the people."

'UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS' ATTACK JUDGE'S HOME

PY030120 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1132 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Rosario, 2 Jan (TELAM) -- The building where Trial Judge Nestor Vico Gimena lives in downtown Rosario has been attacked, presumably with attack weapons. Judge Vico Gimena was recently involved in several cases of great sensitivity.

The attack took place at dawn when a group of several unidentified persons fired on the multi-story building at 1300 Salta Street. The bullets cut the electric lines, destroyed the rails of the fourth floor balcony, and lodged in the walls of the fifth floor.

Judge Vico Gimena recently intervened in several cases of great sensitivity such as that involving a person named Gonzalez Figueiredo who pretended to be an Army captain and was charged with belonging to the Triple A organization. Gonzalez Figueiredo's case was then placed in the hands of Federal Judge Nicasio Dibur. Vico Gimena also took part in the investigation of the kidnapping and death of Claudio Marino.

FORMER AMBASSADOR'S BODY REPORTEDLY FOUND

PY301925 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1905 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] La Plata, 30 Dec (TELAM) -- A body reportedly belonging to former Argentine Ambassador to Venezuela Hector Hidalgo Sala has been found in a cemetary in northern Buenos Aires and will be exhumed in the next few hours. This announcement was made by a highly reliable Government House source who labeled the report very probably true. The body of the diplomat who disappeared in 1977 may be in the Moron or La Matanza Cemeteries.

Discovery of Body Denied

PY312145 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] La Plata, 31 Dec (NA) -- Police inspector Jorge Abraham, the chief of the police guard at the General Villegas Cemetery, today denied that the body of former Ambassador Hector Hidalgo Sola was among the unidentified bodies discovered in the graveyard this week.

This denial coincided with a statement yesterday by Juan Portesi, a Buenos Aires Province official, who said he had "nothing to report" in this regard.

FAVA EXPLAINS PCA POSITION ON GOVERNMENT, UNIONS

PY021431 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0009 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (DYN) -- Argentine Communist Party [PCA] Secretary General Athos Fava reported today that the PCA will adopt a "positive position toward the democratic government" although it will not "stop criticizing any decision that may damage or may be contrary to the interests of the people, comparing words with facts."

On explaining the conclusions of the PCA Central Committee's meeting held yesterday and today, Fava stated that the PCA feels that the union reorganization law proposed by the Executive Branch has "positive elements," although he added that it implies an "excessive state meddling" in the unions, and that the workers have not been consulted through "labor meetings" about the preparation of this law.

However, the PCA considers positive the establishment of minority groups within union leadership, the elimination of the seniority requirement for potential leadership candidates, and the guarantees of democratic proceedings in union elections.

Fava also supported the creation of a national commission on missing persons, although he criticized the official decision to submit to military courts the pre-trial investigations of those responsible for crimes committed during the antisubversive war.

Fava added that most of the participants in the PCA meeting feel that the party's "electoral decision was just" in supporting Peronism, and in "the reasons for not obtaining the expected results" as well.

Havana Notes PCA Meeting

PA012340 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Athos Fava, secretary general of the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA], said at a news conference that by placing nuclear missiles in Western Europe, the Reagan administration has encouraged the arms race and has placed the world on the verge of a nuclear catastrophe. His statement interpreted the feeling of Argentine communists during the plenary session of the PCA Central Committee.

Fava told newsmen that his party will support projects and laws that are intended to strengthen democracy in the country and to serve the best interests of the workers and of the people in general.

Fava added that during the plenary session the Central Committee agreed to hold a festival of the communist press in April 1984 -- the first in the history of the party to be held in Argentina.

SILES ZUAZO DELIVERS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

PY010225 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0044 GMT 1 Jan 84

[New Year's message of Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo to the Bolivian people given from Government House in La Paz -- live or recorded]

[Text] [In progress] ... the aspirations of the social and political forces in accordance with the current interests of the country.

We know that the road to dialogue is full of problems and lack of understanding, but we are willing to travel it. This is why in the first days of this new year we are going to send invitations to the political parties to find the formulas of understanding aimed at strengthening and ensuring the continuity of democracy, confronting the crisis, and conciliating ideas regarding objectives of highest national priority. Therefore, it is incorrect to associate the invitation to dialogue with the immediate organization of a government of national coalition. This wish for unity, as complete as possible, could be achieved in the future if the different political organizations can reach an agreement for a common program.

In the meantime, the formation of the executive branch must be made up of political forces that are identified with the interests of the majority social classes. Under a democratic system, it is normal for political organizations to carry out legitimate and responsible activities. It should be kept in mind that unity does not necessarily mean unanimity of all the political spectrum. Pluralism and [words indistinct] are the basis of democracy.

The democratic government fervently hopes that dialogue will be the basis for the unity for which all Bolivians aspire.

We are entering 1984 with the firm purpose of strengthening the institutional level of our democracy. The elections next year will be the setting for forging even more the democratic ideals of a people willing to live in freedom. Despite the challenge of the crisis, we look forward to 1984 with optimism and faith in the ability and tenacity of the Bolivian people.

We hope that in the coming months social, political, and economic tensions will be less than the tensions we experienced this year. Undoubtedly, 1983 has been a very busy year for our democracy. We have been able to bear with firmness and unbreakable faith in our political process dramatic adversities whose effects cannot be blamed on the government. The droughts and floods created a loss of over 25 percent of our agricultural products. A loss of this magnitude does not even take place in times of war. This loss represented a drastic reduction of agricultural products, particularly foodstuffs, and consequently the worsening of the inflationary process, which had been reduced during the first half of the year.

The delay in getting payments for the sales of natural gas to the previous Argentine Government is the other factor that explains why the economic process was disturbed. It should be kept in mind that almost a third of this export has not been paid. No country can bear without suffering not having this needed foreign currency.

The use of the $243 million owed to us would have reactivated our economy more rapidly, slowed our inflation, and lowered unemployment. In the face of this adversity, only the understanding of our people toward the efforts of the government and its commitment to freedom made them make such great sacrifices. This dedication to the democratic cause allows us to look at the new year with great hope, and if there are no new natural disasters, we are going to have a significant agricultural production for greater food supplies.

[Words indistinct] there is a satisfactory understanding with the new Argentine Government on the cancellation of the natural gas debt payment. [Words indistinct] of the Argentine Government with our democracy and the statement of the Argentine president is for us an absolute guarantee. This fact also permits us to predict for 1984 a substantial supply of U.S. dollars for important imports at a more regular level than in the past. The supply of freely available foreign currency will facilitate a reasonable control over the inflationary process, allowing the economy more sustained progress for recovery by increasing productive employment.

We are also willing to improve the buying power of salaries by defending them from the causes which diminish their value, as we have done so far through the adjustable salary scale. But this defense will be more effective if the labor classes of the country become aware of the need to associate their salary demands with higher effective production so that their salary increases do not become unrealistic and thus create higher inflation.

I invoke once more the spirit of conciliation in these new year festivities by exhorting all Bolivians to put down belligerent moods in the benefit of a social and political truce allowing the fluidity of dialogue during January to ensure its successful outcome. We would think more about the nation and less about sectors, more about the country and less about regions, and more about the poor majority than about the privileged sectors.

I ask Bolivians to confront unitedly and with intransigence the moral crisis inherited and reactivated by the interests of drug traffickers, the past dictatorships, and the opportunist demagogy, so that the crimes against the fatherland committed by the dictatorship, the violation of human rights, the looting of the state resources, and the actions of repressive groups who acted boldly due to the general guarantees and rights granted by democracy to Bolivians are not left unpunished.

On the eve of 1984, I convey to the people my message of peace and harmony along with my fervent desire that in the coming year, in a framework of national understanding, peasants, workers, miners, university students, members of the military, and professionals create the definitive basis for solving the crisis. This objective can be sustained in national unity for the construction of a great Bolivia, a country we all want. We will not tire of repeating that it is imperative that our land continue to be a land of free men. Thank you.

SILES ACCEPTS INDUSTRY MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

PY301900 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Industry and Commerce Minister Humberto Mur Gutierrez is definitely leaving the cabinet. This morning he received a note accepting his resignation, which he had submitted along with the rest of his colleagues. Mur Gutierrez said that Siles Zuazo sent him the note accepting his resignation.

COMMUNIST PARTY THREATENS TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT

PY311344 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Relay from Oruro by Jorge Barrientos Zapata]

[Text] Considerable expectations have been awakened among the citizenry by a recent communique from the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB]. Reliable sources from various political parties have expressed their opinion to this station about the recent PCB communique in which it stated that the Popular and Democratic Unity [UDP] should not accept the membership of any other political party.

This statement was further confirmed by PCB Senator Carlos Barragan Vargas and other high-ranking leaders of the party who have told this station that President Hernan Siles Zuazo must choose between reorganizing the UDP with the parties which made it up originally or run the risk of (?worsening) the crisis of confidence which the UDP government program is currently facing.

These remarks practically confirmed the rumor that the PCB is planning to withdraw from the UDP if the next cabinet is not made up of members of the MNRI [National Revolutionary Movement of the Left], the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], and the PCB.

MNRI Criticizes Communist Party

PY022135 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] According to statements made by Luis Pelaez Rioja, executive secretary of the Legalist faction of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], the destabilizing symptoms within the democratic regime are the exclusive result of the interference of the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] in Hernan Siles Zuazo's cabinet.

In referring to the PCB's stance, which was disclosed in the party's official newspaper, the political leader pointed out that "the leadership of the Legalist faction of the MNRI learned with surprise the PCB's intentions to give advice on the organization of President Siles' new cabinet since the previous one was unanimously rejected by the Senate. The Communist Party fails to recall that the fact that it had some participation in the Democratic and Popular Unity's struggle was only thanks to the MNRI electorate that allowed it to secure some seats in Congress with which, through a sort of internal front with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] within the UDP, it managed to form part of President Siles' first cabinet and in which it now intends to remain."

BRIEFS

NEW COBIJA MAYOR INSTALLED -- Cobija, 22 Dec -- Dr Alejandro Rivera Rivera was today installed as the new mayor of Cobija. Rivera replaces Nelson Raya, who resigned in August. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 7 PY]

NEW NEWSPAPER IN TARIJA -- Tarija, 10 Dec -- The first issue of the newspaper LA VOZ DEL SUR has been published in Tarija. The newspaper is directed by Carlos Morales Avila. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p 9 PY]

PINOCHET STRESSES ECONOMY IN YEAR-END ADDRESS

PY012255 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0135 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Year-end message delivered by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet in Santiago -- live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens: As the year nears its end, the government and the president of the Republic want to convey greetings and wishes for happiness and prosperity in 1984 to all Chileans.

The year that is about to end has been difficult for everybody. We have patiently endured an increasing wave of bitter external attacks against Chile; we have overcome economic difficulties; we have calmly confronted the revival of political agitation fueled by some people's lust for power; and we have strongly rejected the opposition's activism, which is based on radical ideas and which seeks to achieve its goals amid disorder, fear, and public uneasiness.

We have noted with concern that those old demagogic and politicized practices of the past, practices that caused a political system to fail, have reappeared this year. We have been astonished by the attempt to ignore the will of the people, who chose their institutional future (?through a referendum).

However, unemployment has been the most serious and dramatic problem that we have had to cope with, not only because of its economic effects, but also because of its negative social and moral implications. That is why we have concentrated our best efforts on the struggle against unemployment, so that we can achieve a substantial reduction in unemployment in 1984. To this end, we have created the National Employment Commission, an agency that will coordinate all hiring programs, both in the public and private sectors. The measures adopted in 1983 caused the unemployment rate to drop to approximately 15 percent. With an increasing demand for manpower, we hope that this rate will fall substantially in 1984.

Despite these problems, we can point out that there were significant achievements in 1983. This justifies our optimistic view of the near future. The programs implemented by the Housing and Public Works Ministry deserve speical mention because of their considerable impact on economic recovery. A special 1 billion-peso fund has been created to finance a public works program of great socioeconomic significance to be implemented through vast resources of manpower. This program, which began in the second half of 1983, includes the construction of drinking water, sewage, irrigation, and port facilities, and above all highways.

In addition to the permanent efforts that the government has made to finally solve the housing problem for the lower income sectors, a special housing plan has been designed for the construction of 14,000 houses; also, the credits granted to house buyers have been rescheduled, and a saving system for housing building has been created to finance housing for the medium income bracket. This system will begin in 1984.

Among other achievments, those in the health sector are particularly outstanding. With deep satisfaction we report a substantial reduction in the infant mortality rate, in mothers' mortality rates, and in the general mortality rate. We can also report significant advances in the struggle against malnutrition, as well as large investments in the construction, expansion and rennovation of hospitals, and in the purchase and renewal of medical equipment. These actions reflect the government's concern for public health.

In regard to education, the government has always paid particular attention to this sector. We can point to the positive results of the recent evaluation of the educational system that was carried out by the municipalities. We shall continue to improve this system in the future. It must also be pointed out that more than 7,000 teachers throughout the country received training, and that more than 1 million school breakfasts and lunches were provided daily.

As for higher education, we have continued the task of drafting and applying new regulations. In addition, the system of allocating public resources was rationalized.

I cannot fail to mention the revival of partisan activism in institutions of higher learning, and the abuses that have been committed in some of those institutions, instigated in many cases by professional agitators who have nothing to do with such institutions.

As for the judiciary, a brief summary will provide a clear picture of the advances in this area. Among them are the study of conditions for career opportunities within the judicial branch, the modernization of the penal code, the attention given to abandoned children -- which now favors 50,000 children -- the construction of new prisons, the training of police, and the implementation of the new systems of restricted freedom and night imprisonment.

These important achievements reveal that the government has attached priority to the social sector. This policy will continue in 1984.

In the productive sector, the approval of the new mining code deserves particular mention. The new mining code will play a significant role in the development of a vital sector of our economy. The new mining legislation will make it possible to carry out an efficient and timely exploitation of our vast copper resources, because it will give guarantees to private capital while maintaining the state's ownership of the mines.

On the other hand, the expansion of the purchasing power of ENAMI [National Mining Enterprise], which has begun to buy from small- and medium-size mining companies, has also significantly contributed to the utilization of idle manpower.

In the agricultural sector, a package of measures was adopted in improve the marketing of some products. These measures resulted in considerable price hikes, to the benefit of producers.

The government has been particularly concerned with reforestation. I report today with satisfaction that we have a 1 million-hectare reforested area that can be exploited in the future. There were only 290,000 hectares of reforested land in 1973.

The fishing sector accounted for an all-time record catch of more than 4 million tons, making Chile the largest producer in the Americas and the third in the world.

The government has made an effort to solve the debt problems of the transportation sector. I must report that up to today, more than 7,000 debtors have signed contracts with CORFO [Production Development Corporation] rescheduling their debts.

The National Property Ministry has continued regularizing the ownership of small properties. In 1983, 35,000 cases were solved. It should also be pointed out that state-owned lands were provided to facilitate settlement and development in remote areas, that ownership certificates were granted free-of-charge, and that a settlement plan was designed for the southern area.

Finally, in 1983 CORFO continued to provide financial support to several productive sectors, like the agricultural, manufacuring, mining, tourist, fishing, and forestry sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen, the achievements that the government has reached in all areas were attained despite serious setbacks. Therefore, we can have an optimistic view of the economic prospects for 1984.

The natural discontent caused by the economic hardships and high unemployment rates were used by the opposition for the sole purpose of promoting their own interests. But they succeeded only in impairing the image of Chile, in hindering its recovery, and in harming the unemployed themselves. Despite this, and despite the increasing wave of terrorism, which has claimed precious lives of Carabineros, the government has remained calm, has preserved public order and social peace, and has continued to advance toward its long-term political objectives. In this regard, I want to point to the initiatives aimed at creating an atmosphere of national peace and unity, the essential conditions for total democracy. To this end, the government adopted several measures, all of them intended to preserve constitutional rights, even in the case of those Chileans who sought to violate them in the past.

Nobody can fail to recognize that the decision to ask the Council of State to study the organic law that will regulate political party activities, elections, and the functioning of Congress implies a decisive step in the normalization process foreseen by the Constitution. The government also invited representatives of different currents of opinion to give their views on the bills to the Council of State. The government thus broadened the scope allowed political debate, in the hope that the great number of political groups will reach agreement and will create democratic parties representing the national majorities.

As the objective of these initiatives are attained within society, the government will continue the institutionalization process in 1984 and will also implement the changes foreseen in the national objectives.

On the external front, the country has had to bear the negative effects of a campaign orchestrated by the CPSU. Launched through the media of the major western countries, this campaign was to culminate with the overthrow of the military government in September. After failing to attain their objective, they are now fiercely attacking some government officials and their families.

Chileans, on this momentous day, the president of the republic wants to convey a sincere message of affection to all his fellow countrymen. On the eve of a new year, I call upon you to close ranks in the noble cause of the struggle for the greatness of Chile, a cause to which we are committed and to which we shall devote all our human and professional capabilities. The beginning of a new year shows us the best course for the consolidation of our legitimate aspirations for peace, justice, and well-being. On this day, which is so special for our fatherland and for all Chilean homes, may Almighty God continue helping us in the task of building our nation's greatness. Good night.

FINANCE MINISTER CACERES TO VISIT UNITED STATES

PY021450 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1113 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 31 Dec (EFE) -- Chilean Finance Minister Carlos Caceres today announced that he will go to the United States in January to meet with representatives from the international banking sector and to renegotiate the payment of the foreign debt in the 1985-86 period.

The finance minister noted that these negotiations are related to the financing that Chile will need for next year.

Regarding the domestic economy, he said that the estimated economic growth for 1984 will range between 4 and 5 percent, that the unemployment rate will total 12 percent by the end of 1984, and that the inflation rate will not surpass 20 percent. Caceres added that the decrease in unemployment will be due mainly to a significant increase in investment in the construction of housing and public work and to increases in investments by the large copper sectors in the new works.

Carlos Caceres added that Chile must face great challenges in 1984. Among them are increasing exports, improving domestic savings at all levels, and creating proper conditions to generate new job sources. He noted that during 1983 the value of Chilean exports increased by 2 percent in comparison to the same period last year. However, he said that the volume of exports surpassed this percentage by far.

The finance minister said that one of the main challenges that the government will have to face will be lowering the unemployment rate. He said that vast resources will be provided to create the proper conditions to achieve this goal.

Caceres reasserted that the government will not levy taxes beyond those already in force on luxury items or cars. All these measures are aimed at compensating for the fall in the international copper prices, the main Chilean export.

AD PRESIDENT LAGOS WARNS OF DANGER OF CIVIL WAR

PY301835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1740 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 30 Dec (AFP) -- The Democratic Alliance (AD), an opposition coalition, today warned of the danger of a civil war in Chile if the military government headed by General Augusto Pinochet persists on its political and economic course. AD President Ricardo Lagos, a Socialist Party leader, said that the regime cannot fail to recognize the presence of the opposition, which was first mobilized in 1983 after collective fear vanished.

If the government, which came to power after the overthrow of President Salvador Allende in 1973, persists in its present course, Lagos stressed, "the possibility of solving the current dilemma will become more remote." There are several symptoms in Chile which are like those that preceded the current violent situation in Central America. This escalation will be very difficult to stop, and those of us who sponsor a peaceful solution will be caught in a cross fire, he added.

NEW AD PRESIDENT SHARPE ON ACTION PLANS

PY030100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0829 GMT 2 Jan 84

[By Albino Mallo]

[Excerpts] Santiago, 2 Jan (EFE) -- Social Democrat Mario Sharpe, who is the new president of the Democratic Alliance [AD], a coalition opposed to the Chilean military regime, today said that the organization will intensify its social mobilization activity during January and February.

Sharpe, a three-time member of Congress, said that in the coming months he will try to guide the political group away from falling into the usual summer lethargy; therefore, he will immediately promote a line of action aimed at social mobilization. For this purpose he intends to carry out the projects that the Alliance was unable to in December. Among them are several rallies which were not authorized by the government. Permission to hold them will again be requested from the government.

He also stated that "town meetings" or meetings of a few persons -- some 150 to 200 -- will be held within the next few days in Santiago. At these meetings the people will be able to explain their problems to the AD leadership so that it can draw up a list of priorities. Sharpe will give detailed information on these meetings at a press conference that he will hold today as his first activity as president of the Alliance.

10,000 WOMEN DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PINOCHET

FY302050 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0241 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 29 Dec (EFE) -- Over 10,000 women today assembled in the Caupolican Stadium in Santiago in the first large demonstration by women against the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. In a demonstration in which songs for social struggle and the recovery of democracy prevailed, the women shouted slogans against the government for 2 hours. The slogans shouted by the women became an ovation when honors were rendered to former Presidents Salvador Allende and Eduardo Frei. After the assembly, isolated groups of women walked the streets adjacent to the stadium shouting slogans, but they then withdrew from the area with no incidents while Carabineros watched from a distance.

'SUBVERSIVE' SHOT IN HUNT FOR POLICEMEN'S SLAYER

FY301950 Paris AFP in Spanish 0237 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 29 Dec (AFP) -- Security services today killed a subversive in a shootout on the outskirts of Santiago during a dragnet operation to find the people who had killed two policemen. The shootout took place in the heavily populated area of Quinta Normal when security personnel and Carabineros paramilitary police were raiding houses in an effort to find the people who killed Policemen Francisco Perez and Manuel Valenzuela, who were shot in the last few hours.

CP'S VIEIRA CONFERS WITH FRENCH CP OFFICIALS

PM301528 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 22 Dec 83 p 8

[Unattributed untitled report]

[Text] [PCF Central Committee Secretary] Maxime Gremetz has had talks with Communist Party of Colombia General Secretary Gilberto Vieira. The latter explained in particular the main aspects of Colombian policy. On the one hand, President Belisario Betancur's positive international policies (his decisive role in the Contadora Group for peace in Central America, his good relations with Sandinist Nicaragua, Cuba, and other socialist countries, his stance on the problems of peace and disarmament, his attitude toward the Nonaligned Movement, etc have won him international prestige. On the other hand, the military hierarchy's excessive influence on the government is hindering the dialogue for civil peace started with the people's movement for armed struggle. In addition, the struggle of the workers' movement for its standard of living is vital, Gilberto Vieira stressed. After describing the situation in our country and the French Communists' activitie , Mr Gremetz reaffirmed the PCF's solidarity with the Colombian people's forces.

TROOPS DIS ANTLE FARC CAMP, SEIZE SUPPLIES

PA301905 Bo ota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 5-B

[Felio Augusto Plazas report]

[Text] Cali, 22 Dec -- Ten persons accused of belonging to the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, have been arrested by troops of the 3d Brigade. These troops also discovered a camp in which FARC had apparently held several kidnap victims.

The operation, which was conducted by troops of the Codazzi Battalion from Palmira, concluded in the vicinity of Parraga Corregimiento, jurisdiction of Pradera Municipality, in the spurs of the Central Mountain Range. According to the official report, the troops found in a canyon part of a cocaine processing laboratory, weapons, dynamite, letters demanding hefty ransoms for the release of kidnap victims, and a list and photographs of cattlemen and personalities of the region, including a well-known politician from Valle del Cauca who was presumably going to be kidnapped. A tent that sleeps 10 people, in which the FARC apparently held recent kidnap victims, was also found.

Hilario Valencia, who said he is a former governor of the Cauca Indian Regional Council [Consejo Regional Indigena del Cauca -- CRIC] and member of the Communist Party of Colombia, was described as the head of the group.

The other detainees have been identified as: Jairo Valencia, Mercos Ilcue, Rosa Valencia, Iliva Ilcue, Heladio Valencia, Alfredo Valencia, Eliecer Ilcue, Ruby Ilcue, and Joaquin Valencia.

The items seized include 7 shotguns, 250 .30-caliber rounds, several bags containing marijuana, a bottle of acid used to process cocaine, a set of scales, numerous polyethylene bags, bags containing powder and dynamite, two mattresses, and a substantial amount of subversive propaganda material.

M-19 ACCUSED OF TRYING TO PROFIT FROM AMNESTY

PA300430 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 3

[From the "One-Minute Notes" column by Dario Hoyos Hoyos]

[Text] The frequent press, radio, and television communiques issued by those who apparently command the rebel groups prompt us to consider retrospectively our plans to restore peace in Colombia. After talking to President Betancur in Spain, Alvaro Fayad [amnestied M-19 member] and Ivan Marino Ospina [M-19 leader] started a publicity campaign that went so far as having their photographs taken somewhere in the mountains in brand-new uniforms beside the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] staff. In a photograph published by EL TIEMPO, their uniforms did not show the slightest sign of having been worn in battle. Surely the uniforms had just been tailored in Bogota or some other city, for Alvaro Fayad and Ivan Marino Ospina are city people, just as "Tiro Fijo" [FARC commander] and Guaracas [not further identified] can only live in the countryside.

Once, "La Chiqui" [not further identified], Toledo Plata [M-19 official] and other M-19 members decided to go into the mountains, and everyone knows what happened: "La Chiqui" was killed in combat and Toledo Plata was captured. Also Father Camilo Torres was killed after entering inhospitable, unfamiliar territory. We are sure that if "Tiro Fijo" and Guaracas were brought to the city they would die of homesickness. "A mountaineer is out of place in town," as the saying goes.

Everything indicates that, shielded by the FARC's guerrilla prestige, the M-19, a group that has been practically annihilated -- among other reasons because Jaime Bateman, its leader, disappeared mysteriously -- is trying to profit from the amnesty. Fayad and Marino elected to bluff -- so much so that they even tried to slip into the presidential retinue for the return to Bogota. The only thing missing was a request for a special invitation to be beside the Bolivarian presidents during the recent ceremonies to commemorate the Liberator's birth [as published].

M-19 TAKES RADIO STATION, BROADCASTS MESSAGE

PA012135 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1922 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota, 1 Jan (EFE) -- A 19 April Movement (M-19) group took over Radio Continental in Bogota this morning and broadcast a proclamation rejecting the increase in gasoline prices and city bus fares. Seven men and a woman armed with machineguns and revolvers threatened the personnel of the Todelar Network's anchor station and forced the operators to broadcast a recording criticizing the government's social and economic policy. The proclamation said that "President Belisario Betancur speaks a lot about peace but does not fulfill his promises," and asked for more work to achieve the nation's tranquillity.

After spending 20 minutes at the station speaking with Antonio Pardo Garcia, director of the newscast, and other workers, the group fled. They took one audio operator hostage and subsequently released him. The M-19 and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) sent a communique to several communications media reaffirming their political and armed consolidation to demand that the government comply with its "peace promises." They added that many of their members who received the benefits of the amnesty over the past year have rejoined their ranks and will struggle "unceasingly" for the objectives of peace and social justice.

REPORTAGE ON RETURN OF EXILED MOPOCO MEMBERS

'Bizarre Personality'

PY302000 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, 28 December -- maybe because it was fool's day? -- ABC COLOR published a paid advertisement by the banished members of the Colorado Party who are gathering in a boisterous, political, pamphleteering "MUYPOCO" [after MOPOCO, Popular Colorado Movement, meaning "very little"] mini-group. This paid advertisement announces -- watch out, on 28 December -- that on 29 December, that is today, the MOPOCO members will be returning to the country in their role of saviors of democracy.

All this baloney may be attributed to the people who signed the advertisement. But what draws one's attention is that the document, which was signed "in exile," announcing the return for today, is also signed by a secretary called Edgar Cataldi, the same person who in Argentine slang tried to talk to Minister Montanaro in Posadas. This person is not listed in the party registers at all, neither as a member nor as an expelled member of the Colorado Party. It transpires that Cataldi will also "arrive" today during the "return operation."

This is rather confusing to us because according to our reports Cataldi "already arrived" on 22 December driving his own "wheels," Dodge brand, orange, license plates No 651,207 from Misiones, Argentina, through Encarnation. Since 22 December Cataldi has been having a good time, and he is quietly breathing "the dictatorship's atmosphere" in his home in San Lorenzo, at the intersection of Cerro Cora and Espana Streets without being bothered by the humblest policeman, who has not even sniffed the presence of such a bizarre personality.

This is a pity because Cataldi deprived himself of the grandiose welcome with fife, drums, flowers, red carpets, and above all the large drums which the MOPOCO members expect to be met with in the warm Itapua Department.

MOPOCO President Returns

PY301055 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 8

[Excerpts] MOPOCO President Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca met, before returning, with Misiones Province Governor Ricardo Barrios Arrechea who told him that, according to the Paraguayan consul in Posadas, he would not run into any difficulty in returning to Paraguay.

At the port of Posadas, the MOPOCO president was bid farewell by exiles and by leaders of the Posadas branch of the National Accord, including Domingo Laino and his wife. At 1000, Gonzalez Casabianca, accompanied by his son Marcos, 18, boarded a boat of the Posadas Naval Prefecture under the command of Auxiliary Officer Jorge Blati. The Misiones governor's private secretary, Jose Ramon Negrete, and MOPOCO leaders Faustino Centurion and Andres Gomez Galeano accompanied Gonzalez Casabianca to Encarnacion. The boat made the trip solely to carry the exiled leader and members of the Misiones press by courtesy of the Misiones governor, according to reports.

To come into Paraguayan customs, Gonzalez Casabianca had to be transferred to a Paraguayan boat. This boat was boarded by Police Inspector Luis Martinez, chief of police of the Itapua Government Delegation, who facilitated Gonzalez Casabianca's passage through customs, and invited him over to the office of the Government Delegation.

Itapua Government Delegate Sergio E. Dacak received Gonzalez Casabianca for a few minutes to tell him that he could move freely, despite his noncompliance with a government requirement to inform the Interior Ministry about his trip beforehand. Gonzalez Casabianca explained that MOPOCO had publicly announced the return of its president through a press communique, adding that, as far as he knew, there was no law stipulating that he had to make an advance report of his return to the country.

The MOPOCO leader was met in Encarnacion by President of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] Manuel Benitez Florentin, PLRA Political Secretary Miguel Abdon Saguier, President of the Human Rights Commission Carmen de Lara Castro, Febrerista Party Vice President Enrique Sanchez, and PLRA youth leaders Felino Amarilla and Jose Luis Zaldivar.

On the trip to Asuncion, the travlers stopped at the Arapizandu Hotel in San Ignacio for lunch. Gonzalez Casabianca met with some acquaintances at the hotel. The next stop was at Zaldivar's home in San Lorenzo. Gonzalez Casabianca arrived in Asuncion at night and was received by his relatives. Today at 1130 at the Casa del Pueblo, the National Accord will give a press conference.

At 1900, a caravan of cars left Zaldivar's home in San Lorenzo, accompanying Gonzalez Casabianca into Asuncion. It was made up of some 15 cars with persons carrying the Paraguayan flag, red banners, and blue banners. The caravan drove up Eusebio Ayala and San Martin Avenues, and upon reaching Del Maestro Street it was intercepted by police officers who took away the red banners, and forebade the caravan from proceeding with its demonstration. It then fell silent and went to the house of one of the MOPOCO leader's relatives, as reported by Nelson Garcia Ramirez.

The MOPOCO president told ABC COLOR that he was forced to leave the country in the wake of the 29 May 1959 crisis when several leaders of the Colorado Party decided to go underground to escape arrest. Casabianca later sought asylum in the Uruguayan Embassy, and then went to Argentina on 20 October 1959. Gonzalez Casabianca stated that, in his view, the permission for MOPOCO leaders to return has nothing to do with a change of mind on the government's part, but with external circumstances creating pressure to create a new liberalization facade, as well as a legal facade for repression through Laws 209 and 294.

Regarding the possibilities of MOPOCO's confronting the official line, Casabianca said that MOPOCO realizes that the possibilities are quite limited "because of the authoritarian legal scheme in force in the country, but we are going to demonstrate that in an environment of freedom MOPOCO is a political force indeed."

Asked about what he would do if MOPOCO finds no freedom of action here, Gonzalez Casabianca said that it will continue to struggle for the freedom to exercise its rights. Regarding the possibility that they might reach an agreement with the government or with the Government Junta of the Colorado Party, he does not believe the government has any kind of offer to make to MOPOCO, "because we propose solutions for national problems, not proposals for personal or sectorial arrangements. We are not asking for government jobs, but for discussion of national problems."

The police had apparently been informed that MOPOCO supporters would try to stage a demonstration in front of the Colorado Party Building, and in front of newspapers last night. The police set up a surveillance operation around the newspaper HOY, and stopped car traffic in front of ABC COLOR on Yegros Street, as well as in front of the Colorado Party Building on 25 May Street. No demonstrations were staged, and so there were neither incidents nor arrests.

MOPOCO Vice President Returns

PY301739 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] MOPOCO Second Vice President Alejandro Stumpfs Mendoza yesterday arrived in Asuncion aboard a Cruzeiro flight. He was accompanied by his son Raul, 14, and was met at the airport by a daughter and by members of the National Accord. Stumpfs declined to make political statements, but expressed satisfaction at returning to his country after 23 years in exile. After passing through customs and Investigative Police checks, Stumpfs was met by Miguel A. Martinez Yaryes and Jose Maria Fernandez Estigarribia of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], and Febrerista Party President Euclides Acevedo. Upon leaving the airport, Stumpfs said that he intended to stay in the country.

Third MOPOCO Leader Returns

PY311340 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 9

[Excerpts] Colonel Enrique Gimenez, retired, who arrived in Paraguay by air this morning, is the third exiled leader of the Popular Colorado Movement [MOPOCO] to come home. This afternoon the National Accord coordination board will have a meeting, attended for the first time by MOPOCO representatives.

"It is hard to express it properly. The happiness and joy of being in Paraguay again after 35 years of absence is too great," Col Enrique Gimenez briefly told ULTIMA HORA. He is a member of the MOPOCO, a splinter group which disagrees with the current leadership of the Colorado Party. The retired Paraguayan officer entered the country at President Stroessner International Airport with hardly any trouble this morning.

Col Gimenez arrived in Paraguay by a regular Argentine Airline flight at 1025 and was delayed for a few minutes for a check. Waiting for him at the airport were relatives, friends, and National Accord members, as well as representatives of Colorado Party dissident sectors.

The MOPOCO leader stated: "My activities in the country have been widely publicized, so let us not mention them." He let it be understood that his reasons for returning to the country were the same as those of Doctor Miguel A. Gonzalez Casabianca and Mr Alejandro Stumpfs, MOPOCO leaders who are also in the country now.

The colonel said: "I have not yet come here to live because that kind of move cannot be made in a few days. But I intend to stay and to live in my country."

The first National Accord meeting with MOPOCO participation to be held in this country has been announced for this afternoon. The political coalition is formed by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, the Febrerista Party, the Christian Democratic Party, and Colorado Party dissidents.

MOPOCO Holds Press Conference

PY311600 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Dec 83 p 14

[Text] During a press conference, MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] leader Doctor Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca yesterday said that "the Colorado Party must begin a normalization process that should restore the party's institutional order and that should safeguard its traditional values. The MOPOCO returned to do just that, to continue with its political action. We have no proposal to make to the Asuncion Colorado Government Junta because we believe that the institutional order of the Colorado Party was broken in 1959. We are, however, open to dialogue."

The press conference was held at 1130 at the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] headquarters, where MOPOCO members for the first time served on the coordinating board of the National Accord in Paraguay.

The press conference was organized by the National Accord in the wake of the arrival of MOPOCO members in our country; it was attended by the presidents of the four parties making up the National Accord, namely, Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca (MOPOCO), Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin (PLRA) [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], Euclides Acevedo (PRF), and Romulo Perina (PDC) [Christian Democratic Party]. Recently arrived MOPOCO members Colonel Enrique Gimenez, retired, and Alejandro Stumpfs, and other local National Accord leaders also attended the conference.

In his opening remarks, Gonzalez Casabianca said that the most noble characteristic of politics is not unanimity but differences of opinion. He remarked that the Colorado Party is a pluralistic force that enjoys widespread social support. "It is perfectly normal that different lines of thinking should develop within the party, and that people should settle their differences democratically to unite behind the leaders elected by the party," he said.

Concerning the first activities that the MOPOCO will undertake in Paraguay, he explained that they will work for the self-determination of the party, so that it may recover its internal freedom. Gonzalez Casabianca stressed that MOPOCO returned to Paraguay to confirm that it will seek accord, reconciliation, and dialogue in the task of building a true democracy in Paraguay. "If we cannot coexist in a civilized and democratic way," he added, "our serious socioeconomic, cultural and moral problems will not be solved."

After paying tribute to Col Gimenez on behalf of the Chaco war veterans on the 50th anniversary of the war, Casabianca delivered a message to the Colorado people and to the Paraguayan youth. He also reiterated MOPOCO's support for the National Accord. He stressed that MOPOCO leaders have returned without hatred, resentment, or animosity, remarking that even though the Colorado Party has made mistakes just as the Liberal Party did, such mistakes cannot be blamed on party members but on the parties' leadership.

For his part, Col Enrique Gimenez said that despite the fact that MOPOCO members have been slandered, "we have never used irreparable words against anybody, so we can embrace all our fellow countrymen and talk to our fellow party members face-to-face." Asked whether it is true that he allowed the Colorado Party to assume power, he replied that he can no longer deny it now. "It is true," he conceded.

In conclusion, Juan Manuel Benitez asked for the urgent release of the political prisoners on hunger strike.

BELAUNDE PROMULGATES 1984 BUDGET LAW

PY301700 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Report from Government Palace by (Ana Maria Jaime)]

[Text] The 1984 budget law has been promulgated by President Fernando Belaunde Terry at Government Palace. The event took place at the president's office and was attended by the entire Congressional Budget Commission. This commission is headed by Senator (Gaston Acuna Velarde). The event was also attended by Energy and Mines Minister Fernando Montero Aramburu, acting for Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, who is on a trip.

As has been announced, the 1984 budget totals some 11 billion soles.

Installs Three New Ministers

PY311611 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Today at noon President Belaunde Terry administered the formal oath of office to the new aeronautics, energy and mines, and fisheries ministers. They are Lieutenant General (Jose Eleazar Stambuk), who replaces General Hernan Boluarte as aeronautics minister; Engineer Jose Benavides Munoz, replacing Fernando Montero Aramburu as energy and mines minster; and Dr Ismael Benavides (Ferreira), who replaces Fortunato Quesada as fisheries minister.

NEW ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL FREYRE ASSUMES POST

PY012303 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 1 Jan (EFE) -- General Julian Freyre today assumed the post of general commander of the Peruvian Army, replacing General Carlos Briceno Zevallos, who retired after 35 years of service.

During the command relief ceremony, General Freyre noted the importance of military discipline and respect for the democratic Constitution. "National defense is not only the reason for the existence of the military institution, but its highest mission as well, with discipline as its foundation. To the national defense and to a most active participation in the country's economic and social development, we have to devote all our convictions as soldiers, essentially nationalist, institutional, and apolitical, abiding by the rules of the nation's Constitution."

FRENCH FIRM UPDATES AIR FORCE MIRAGE JETS

PY030245 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 24 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] The obsolete Mirage 5P planes of the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] are being updated and fitted, among other things, with a laser range finder that allows precision of a few meters in the firing of air-to-surface missiles. The updating of the Peruvian Mirage planes includes a navigation and attack system which has an inertia guidance board, a target sight, a laser range finder, and new radio-communications equipment, according to statements by a spokesman of the French enterprise Dassault-Breguet to local journalists.

The first group of four updated Mirage 5P planes have already been placed at the disposal of the FAP.

The modernization of the planes was carried out by Dassault-Greguet, which won the FAP's call for bids, in which U.S. and Israeli enterprises also took part.

The FAP has had the two-seater 5P and 5DP version of the Mirage 5 plane since 1969.

The program to modernize the planes' air-to-air system will allow the Mirage 5P to use the French-made Matra 550 Magic missile, which the pilot will be able to fire with an infrared guided system. The spokesman noted that information on targets and course may be fed into the memory system of the intertia guidance board. The Dassault-Breguet spokesman stated that "the accuracy granted by laser range finders in the use of the air-to-surface system (the Mirage attacking surface targets) allows hitting a target within a range of just a few meters.

However, the most important changes made on the Mirage 5P planes with the modernization program is the "switching from the manual to the automatic attack system." With the automatic attack system, once information on the target has been fed into the computer, the missiles, or bombs, can be "fired from a greater distance, at a higher speed, and in one pass," it was noted.

LIMA WELCOMES NEW YEAR IN TOTAL DARKNESS

PY021316 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 1 Jan (AFP) -- More than 5 million Peruvians welcomed the new year with no electricity, due to a blackout which began a minute after midnight. The cut in electricity supply affected not only Lima but several nearby cities. It lasted more than 35 minutes in most sectors of the capital. The people of Lima had to suspend their year-end parties, though the fireworks -- widely used despite the official prohibition -- were much more beautiful in the dark.

Moreover, the electricity supply had not yet been restored by this morning in the cities of Huancayo, 310 km to the east, and Ica, 300 km to the south. All these zones receive electricity from the hydroelectric dam at Mantaro, 500 km southeast of Lima. The technicians have not been able to find the cause of the blackout, though a source related to the State Electric Power Enterprise told AFP that three power pylons had been blown up in the central zone.

The hydroelectric dam is located in the northern part of the Department of Ayacucho, where the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group has focused its subversive acts.

30,000 SOVIET FISHERMEN TRANSIT LIMA IN 1983

PY030230 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Dec 83 p 1

[Summary] According to airport passenger control records, nearly 30,000 Soviet fishermen passed through the Lima airport in 1983. Another group made up of more than 100 men arrived yesterday in order to reinforce the crew of the Soviet fishing fleet which operates in international waters 200 miles off Peru's coast. "In its two weekly flights, AEROFLOT brings in some 300 fishermen per week. On occasions, chartered jets have arrived bringing in Polish fishermen. The comings and goings between Lima and Moscow of personnel of the powerful Soviet fishing factory ships are commonplace at the Jorge Chavez Airport." They usually take Peruvian canned beer and handicrafts with them, selling their watches or exchanging them for handicrafts or alpaca wool when they run out of money.

PRESIDENT REVIEWS ADMINISTRATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS

PA011752 Paris AFP in Spanish 2026 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 31 Dec (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins today urged the Central American peoples to demonstrate their willingness to achieve peace on the isthmus. He also urged the powerful countries and their friends to refrain from further exacerbating the region's conflicts.

In this year-end message to the nation, Herrera stressed the peace role of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and reiterated his formula for a durable peace in Central America: economic revitalization, social justice, and democratization. Speaking on a radio and television network, Christian Democrat Herrera Campins noted the numerous activities undertaken during this year in which the bicentennial of Liberator Simon Bolivar's birth was commemorated.

In the economic field, he mentioned the gloomy 1983 report issued by ECLA, noting a 3.3 percent slump in economic growth, the worst in the past 3 years. Venezuela's economic growth declined 3 percent this year. He said that his government worked with "assurance and seriousness" to find a serious dialogue with the nation's creditors to refinance its short-term foreign debt of $16.5 billion, without accepting the severe requirements proposed by the IMF, which would have caused serious social disruptions.

The president said that the results of the measures adopted by Venezuela in the last 10 months, since 18 February, when it declared exchange controls with multiple exchange rates between the bolivar and the U.S. dollar, could change the opinion of the IMF technicians toward Venezuela.

He noted Venezuela's extensive participation in all the regional meetings dealing with the regional economic crisis, emphasizing the special conference on foreign financing that was held in Caracas under OAS sponsorship. He reaffirmed the country's support for the initiative of Ecuador's President Osvaldo Hurtado to hold the ECLA conference in Quito on 12 January.

He told the Venezuelan people that the next administration, under Social Democrat Jaime Lusinchi, beginning on 2 February, will not solve the country's problems [as received], adding that austerity, work, and productivity should be priority goals.

He favored economic growth directed abroad for Venezuela, principally through agricultural development and the expansion of the nontraditional exports.

In a reference to the "rough" election campaign, which ended on 4 December with Lusinchi's victory, he emphasized the democratic spirit of the Venezuelan people and expressed his belief that democracy can be improved. He added that with his overwhelming and parliamentary majority, Lusinchi assumes the responsibility of sincerely fulfilling his election promises, since he will have no opposition in either house of Congress. For the sake of the country's well-being, Herrera Campins wished him success and understanding for his administration.

He addressed the political parties that lost the elections, especially his fellow Christian Democrats, to remind them of the need for thought and a thorough and unprejudiced review of their consciences. "Of course a lot happened to us," exclaimed the president in referring to the Christian Democrats' loss of power in the election.

Finally, the president said that he was not lacking in his desire to serve, and that he was now aware of the faults and shortcomings of his administration and assumes full historical responsibility.

U.S. CITIZENS PRESUMED DEAD IN HELICOPTER CRASH

PA301558 Paris AFP in Spanish 1443 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 30 Dec (AFP) -- One Chilean and three U.S. citizens, two of whom are of Portuguese origin, were victims of the helicopter crash on Thursday in the Caribbean Sea off Venezuela's coasts, it was reported today in Caracas. The helicopter belonged to the U.S. tuna fishing boat "Mary Patria" which is sailing between Panama and Cumana (eastern Venezuela).

The victims, who disappeared in the waters of the Caribbean Sea, are: Carlos Silva, Chilean machinist; U.S. citizen John Caneban, fishing boat captain; and U.S. citizens of Portuguese origin Edin de Luca, and Luis Ferreira, a crewman who was sick.

The accident occurred 75 miles (some 140 km) north of Puerto Cabello (200 km northeast of Caracas) and some 19 miles south of Bonaire Island. The helicopter was carrying Ferreira from the tuna boat to a hospital in Puerto Cabello because Ferreira was suffering from a respiratory problem, and there was no oxygen left on the boat. Venezuelan naval vessels have launched a search for the helicopter. The four occupants are presumed dead because the patrol boat "Patria" has found only a life jacket and a helicopter seat.

HAVANA CITES MAGAZINE REPORT ON U.S. 'PLANS'

PA021923 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The U.S. Government has prepared a political and economic aggression plan against the Central American and Caribbean countries for 1984, according to the magazine (SIG), which is published in the capital of Venezuela. The magazine reports that the plan includes an increase in subversive activities against Nicaragua and Cuba; increased financial and military aid for the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran regimes; and the neutralizing of Latin American public opinion, which is increasingly opposed to U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Central America and the Caribbean.

EL SALVADOR

EL PARAISO GARRISON IN CHALATENANGO ATTACKED

PA301903 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran guerrillas announced today at noon that they had managed to seize the garrison at El Paraiso, the most important one in the northern part of the country.

Radio Farabundo Marti announced today at 1215 (1815 GMT) that "our vanguard unit battalions currently control the inside, the dorms, the halls, the command post, the garage, and the ammunition depot."

This is the first garrison to fall into the hands of the guerrillas since the war in El Salvador began 4 years ago.

The attack on the garrison at El Paraiso began today at 0200 (0800 GMT), when the rebels simultaneously attacked the 25 Army positions around the garrison.

According to military sources, four Cazadores battalions are based in this garrison, but most of these troops were conducting an operation in the department, which had started only a few hours earlier.

According to Radio Farabundo Marti, government troops sustained "a large number of casualties" in these clashes.

The guerrillas staged a simultaneous attack on the garrison in Chalatenango, the departmental capital, and, according to another insurgent station, eight soldiers and two civilian defense patrolmen have been killed thus far.

Venceremos Reports New Campaign

PA302315 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Long live the national military campaign "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory," a new military campaign launched by our vanguard on this 30 December with great victories in Chalatenango.

In addition to seizing the important 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso and attacking Detachment 1 Headquarters in Chalatenango, our revolutionary forces occupied the towns of El Paraiso and San Rafael, inflicting a large number of casualties on the dictatorship and seizing a considerable amount of arms.

We also report that our revolutionary forces attacked and dislodged the troops guarding the Soyate Bridge, capturing some soldiers and seizing more arms and ammunitions.

Reports from Chalatenango indicate that the troops defending San Rafael, 4 km from the El Paraiso garrison, fled in disarray to the main northern highway.

Farabundo Marti on Occupation

PA301924 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Today, this glorious day of 30 December 1983, our people have achieved one of the greatest victories in the revolutionary military history of our dear Salvadoran fatherland! Today, 30 December 1983, our FMLN forces have dealt one of the greatest military and political blows to our enemies! Today, 30 December, in the morning, the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Paraiso, in this department of Chalatenango, has fallen into our hands.

We repeat -- the revolutionary battalions' vanguard units at this moment have set foot in the headquarters of the 4th Brigade in Paraiso, Chalatenango. Salvadoran people, at this very moment, 1305 in the afternoon, at this moment, our revolutionary battalions have set foot inside the installations of the headquarters of the 4th Brigade in Paraiso.

This is the first headquarters, the first garrison of a military infantry brigade, that has fallen into the hands of the FMLN! [words indistinct]

This is a repetition of the report that was sent to us a few hours ago by our companero correspondent in the western area, Companero Rosendo Lobo, a member of one of our combat broadcasting equipment units. This is what our companero correspondent told us, giving us a direct report on the seizure, the fall, of the 4th Brigade at El Paraiso, Chalatenango:

[Begin recorded relay] Attention, pay much attention, heroic Salvadoran people. We have very important information from this western area of Chalatenango Department. Attention, important victories have been achieved by our people in arms here this morning in western Chalatenango Department.

Attention, pay close attention, Salvadoran people, local and international press:

This morning, the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department -- we repeat, the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade of El Paraiso, in this department of Chalatenango -- is in our hands. We repeat, the headquarters of the 4th Brigade in El Paraiso has fallen into our hands. The forces of our vanguard battalions at this moment are controlling the interior of the headquarters -- the troops' dormitories, passageways, yards, the command post, garages, and arms magazine of the headquarters at El Paraiso.

We repeat this important information: Our people in arms this morning have set foot in and are in complete control of the headquarters of the garrison of the 4th Infantry Brigade here in Chalatenango.

Here are some details on the combat developments early this morning, which culminated with the seizure, the falling into our hands, of the garrison of El Paraiso, Chalatenango: The attack was launched by our vanguard battalions at 0200. Early this morning, at 0200, we began our attack on the garrison of the 4th Infantry Brigade at El Paraiso. Our battalions of vanguard units advanced with the support of artillery fire. The peripheral defense system of the garrison at El Paraiso was smashingly attacked by our guerrilla fire. A total of 25 positions, involving sentry boxes [garitones] and enemy posts, were totally annihilated [words indistinct] by our revolutionary battalions.

The 4th Brigade at El Paraiso was composed of four Cazadores battalions, four battalions which were (?being trained) in the famous tactics of Ronald Reagan's North American advisers, who were in direct command of these Cazadores troops of the 4th Brigade at Ei Paraiso [words indistinct].

Our forces attacked this garrison simultaneously with the dislodging operation that was carried out at the enemy post located over the (Follate) Bridge, about which we have supplied some details, such as the taking of five prisoners and the seizure of a 60-mm mortar and an M-60 machinegun. We simultaneously attacked and subdued the enemy position in San Rafael, here in western Chalatenango, which was composed of National Guard troops.

At the same time, our units seized the town of El Paraiso, putting to flight and partially liquidating the troops of the 4th Brigade that [words indistinct] in said garrison.

This is our most important information regarding this important victory of early this morning, after 0200, when we attacked the garrison of the 4th Infantry Brigade. At this moment, at 0400, following 2 hours of combat, our revolutionary forces are in total control of this important enemy position. This important garrison continues to be in the hands of our FMLN at this moment. [end recorded relay]

Further on FMLN Occupation

PA302017 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1939 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran guerrillas claim to have gained control of the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters in El Paraiso, the first garrison they have seized since the war began 4 years ago.

The insurgents began attacking the garrison at 0200 (0800 GMT) today, and it was not until a few minutes after noon that they reported being in full control, after overcoming the 25 points of this garrison's defensive system.

El Paraiso is located about 60 km north of the capital. The Army is not allowing either journalists or members of the Salvadoran or International Red Cross to head north.

In addition to attacking that garrison, the insurgents simultaneously harassed three other military posts in Chalatenango Department, including the garrison located in the departmental capital, where the special Sierpe Battalion is based.

Chalatenango Department is the second leading guerrilla bastion and the firmest stronghold of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), one of the two major groups that comprise the FMLN.

Army spokesmen have not yet officially confirmed the fall of the military garrison in El Paraiso, on the basis of the reports they received 2 hours before the guerrillas announced that they had gained control of the garrison.

According to the Army, early this morning, when the garrison was first attacked, there were between 200 and 250 soldiers inside, since the rest of the troops have been conducting an operation in eastern Chalatenango for the last 2 days.

During the last few hours, the Armed Forces have been conducting other military operations in eight departments throughout the country, and in the northern part of the Salvadoran capital.

The guerrillas have described the occupation of the garrison at El Paraiso as "one of the biggest successes" in their 4-year-old struggle. Radio Farabundo Marti, official voice of the FPL, is transmitting live, both on shortwave and FM, providing frequent military bulletins on the clashes that are currently taking place in Chalatenango.

The current situation of the other garrison located in the capital of this department is not yet known, as it is also being attacked by the insurgents, who claim to have killed eight soldiers and two civilian defense patrolmen there so far.

Army Admits Garrison Occupation

PA302202 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Army has admitted that the FMLN occupied the important 4th Infantry Brigade garrison in El Paraiso, 60 km north of this capital. A spokesman for the Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) admitted that the situation "is quite delicate" and that the reinforcements that have reached the scene have engaged in "very fierce" fighting with the guerrillas in an effort to dislodge them.

The rebel radio station Radio Venceremos noted that the Army has sustained a large number of casualties, without stating figures, but the military spokesmen have declined to comment on this.

FMLN Says Headquarters Destroyed

PA310142 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Attention to this last minute information received by Radio Venceremos. This note from Chalatenango states that from a vast area in this department, large columns of smoke can be seen rising from the destroyed headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso.

Our revolutionary forces, after holding the headquarters for 12 hours, have destroyed this important garrison in El Paraiso. From different points of Chalatenango Department, we have been informed that columns of smoke can be seen rising from what was the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade, which has now been erased from the dictatorship's military map.

We repeat, -- the 4th Infantry Brigade's headquarters has been destroyed by FMLN forces, who took control of the headquarters at 0400 today, after 2 hours of clashes with the garrison, which housed four Cazadores special battalions, trained by the U.S. advisers.

Havana Reports El Paraiso Attack

PA302028 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran FMLN guerrillas have attacked the headquarters of the Army 4th Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department, with mortar fire.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee has confirmed the attack, adding that the military installation has suffered serious damage. There were no reports on the number of casualties.

Reports from the departmental capital of Chalatenango state that telephone communication with the El Paraiso headquarters has been severed.

Other dispatches confirm that the Salvadoran Army suffered 225 casualties in 12 days of combat with guerrilla forces in Morazan and San Miguel Departments. In the actions, which included the participation of 3,000 troops, the rebels captured 35 soldiers and seized 87 rifles, 14 support weapons, munitions, and other war supplies. They also damaged five helicopters.

Havana: U.S. Advisers Captured

FL310154 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] When they occupied an important barracks in northern El Salvador, guerrilla forces, for the first time since the beginning of the war in that country, captured U.S. military advisers. FMLN forces took the El Paraiso, Chalatenango, military installations, headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade. The information, provided by the rebel radio station Radio Venceremos, indicates that at the beginning of the attack, there were more than 2,000 [figure as heard] soldiers. Most of them withdrew, but some of them, including the U.S. advisers, were captured.

Farabundo Marti on U.S. Denial

PA022130 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Today, 2 January, we learned that leading U.S. diplomats denied that U.S. military advisers were at the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison at the time of the attack. The dictatorship is reporting that our revolutionary station is spreading these rumors. We want the people, the local and international news media, to know that the fascist high command does not want to admit the crushing defeat by our people in arms, especially this unprecedented defeat of the Army at the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison. The fascist high command is denying the actual facts.

The fascist high command has been spreading rumors about things we have not said, which the top officers of the puppet Army have invented. This is the result of the bewilderment and tremendous confusion that prevails in the fascist high command. The reports disseminated by the fascist high command are intended to create confusion, to misinform our people, and also to try to cover up their defeat inflicted by our heroic revolutionary forces.

Against the lies of the bloodthirsty dictatorship, our revolutionary truth!

COPREFA Bans FMLN Reports

PA310302 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, has forbidden the national and international press from citing reports broadcast by Radio Farabundo Marti and Radio Venceremos. The dictatorship thinks it will be able to hide the large defeat it has suffered today, 30 December.

We urge our people to listen to reports being broadcast on international stations in various Central American countries. Nicaraguan, Costa Rican, and international stations are citing reports broadcast by Radio Venceremos today. Let's all defeat misinformation. Let's pass on reports from person to person about these new victories achieved in the new FMLN national military campaign.

In view of the misinformation siege that the dictatorship is trying to erect around the victories achieved by the FMLN, we urge our people to listen to Honduran, Nicaraguan, Costa Rican, and other international stations that are citing reports broadcast by Radio Venceremos today in various casts.

Let's all frustrate the dictatorship, which is using misinformation to hide the great victories achieved by our revolutionary army today, 30 December, when we occupied and destroyed the quarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango, attacked the garrison in the city of Chalatenango, took over the towns of San Rafael and El Paraiso, and won other important victories in Chalatenango Department during our military campaign urging all the people to join our revolutionary army, now that we are advancing toward victory.

Radio Venceremos will continue accompanying our revolutionary army in our next transmissions, during our new national military campaign "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory."

Censorship Lifted After 3 Hours

PA310325 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0216 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Confronting a fierce guerrilla offensive, the Salvadoran authorities imposed press censorship today for the first time in 4 years of civil war in the country, but lifted it 3 hours later.

The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, imposed a prohibition on "clandestine sources" on behalf of the interior minister, shortly after the clashes in the north, which, according to U.S. officials, dealt serious blows to the Army.

Consulted by the press after the press censorship was imposed, a military spokesman said the interior minister ordered that it be lifted after 3 hours.

Army Says Chalatenango 'Calm'

PA311609 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1538 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army today reported that it has Chalatenango Department under its control after the guerrillas occupied the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison and attacked other positions yesterday.

Colonel Ricardo Cienfuegos, head of the Army's Press Office, has told ACAN-EFE that the situation in Chalatenango, in northern El Salvador, is "calm."

He added that the Army gained control of the zone yesterday at 1900 (0100 GMT), although as of yet there are no reports available on the results of the intense fighting that began early yesterday morning.

The press continues to be prohibited from entering Chalatenango Department, but this prohibition does not apply to the rest of the civilian population.

U.S. Embassy sources have confirmed to a San Salvador radio station that the guerrillas occupied the 4th Brigade headquarters in El Paraiso, but that they later withdrew.

The region has been intensely bombed by the Air Force.

FPL Command Notes Victory

PA310455 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 31 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 1 issued by the General Command of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, member of the FMLN; read by Commander Dimas Rodriguez]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] (?We assumed) attack positions against the 4th Infantry Brigade located in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department. This brigade is comprised of four Cazadores battalions.

The action started with a massive attack by our artillery units, which used 88-mm and (?120-mm) mortars, as well as 90-mm cannon. Infantry troops advanced immediately afterward, annihilating five (?positions) at the brigade's barracks during the first few hours. Our troops then attacked the nine dormitories of the guards' [word indistinct] the garage, the magazine, [words indistinct] and the command post where the colonels and officers were lodged. Immediately afterward, the facilities were demolished in succession, resulting in the burning of the entire garrison.

At 1900, we gained control of the entire quarters, killing [as heard] hundreds of the enemy, including more than a dozen officers. We also destroyed all arsenals and recovered a light tank, several military vehicles, and a large quantity of war supplies. This maneuver was combined with a siege on Military Detachment 1, stationed in Chalatenango. The (Rafael Aguilar) battalion participated in this siege. [passage indistinct] recognized the remains of what once was the dictatorship's 4th brigade. This revolutionary action has been called "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory."

This blow will provoke a serious imbalance in the dictatorship's forces because it has destroyed one of the six brigades which has received special training by Yankee advisers. In addition, one of the annihilated Cazadores battalions had returned from Puerto Castilla only a week ago. It had been trained and armed by the Yankee army.

This war report is preliminary. We call the working class, all the Salvadoran people, and peoples of the rest of the world to follow attentively the heroic, victorious events in Chalatenango Department.

Eternal glory to our war of liberation's heroes and martyrs! United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! Revolution or death, [words indistinct]!

General Command of the FPL, member of the FMLN

[Signed] Commanders Leonel Gonzalez, Dimas Rodriguez, (Guillermo Mendez), Salvador Guerra, and [words indistinct]

Results of Occupation Noted

PA312018 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 31 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 2 issued by the General Command of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, member of the FMLN, on 31 December in Chalatenango, read by Commander Léonel Gonzalez]

[Text] We announce to our heroic people and the peoples of the world that the preliminary and partial results of the occupation of the 4th Brigade of El Paraiso are as follows: 200 dead and wounded, many of them officers and noncommissioned officers, 200 prisoners of war, including several officers. We will announce their names later. The rest of the enemy's troops fled toward Chalantenango, San Salvador, the Honduran border, and (?Santa Ana).

A list of the materiel recovered follows: three .50-cal machineguns, five 90-mm cannon, 11 M-60 machineguns, 248 M-16 rifles, 10 MP-5 submachineguns, 27 PRC-77 radios, one 81-mm mortar, three 60-mm mortars, and 10 M-79 grenade launchers. We will announce the final totals later.

The garrision and the arsenals have been completely destroyed as were 2 armored vehicles, 2 Massinger armored trucks, 5 military transport trucks, and 10 vehicles used by the officers.

We also wish to announce to our heroic people that today, 31 December, after 1 day of occupying the 4th Brigade garrision, our vanguard units' battalions of the Commander Felipe Pena Group withdrew without problems. The enemy reinforcements had not yet shown up.

United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! Revolution or death, the armed people will win!

General Command of the People's Liberation Forces, member of the FMLN

[Signed] Commanders Leonel Gonzalez, Dimas Rodriguez, (Milton Mendez), Salvador Guerra, and Ricardo Gutierrez

El Paraiso Aftermath Reported

PA312205 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people. We have just received a dispatch from Companero Rosendo Lobos, reporting that our vanguard battalion units have withdrawn from El Paraiso Garrision without any problems.

Companero Rosendo Lobos also reported a few minutes ago through this rebel radio station that army trucks loaded with soldiers are leaving for San Salvador on the main northern highway. He also reported that at approximately 1045 today, towns in the western sector of Chalantenango were being heavily bombed.

Here is Companero Rosendo Lobos' latest report:

[Begin recording] Your attention, please. This is a special call to the people of Apopa, Ciudad Delgado, Otero Grande, Guazapa, and every town located along the main northern highway, asking you to witness the military trucks passing by loaded with dead soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade of El Paraiso, who are being taken to San Salvador.

I repeat -- the enemy began this morning to transport the dead officers in helicopters and dead soldiers in trucks to San Salvador, where they will be buried.

We are calling on our people to witness the passing of the defeated puppet Army along the main northern highway.

We have other reports for our people from the western sector of Chalatenango Department.

Early this morning we left El Paraiso garrison, which we occupied for 24 hours with our vanguard battalion units. We have withdrawn in an orderly manner, after carrying out absolutely all our political and military objectives.

We have received reports indicating that members of the 4th Infantry Brigade, stationed at the post in El Barrancon and at Colima Bridge, fled [words indistinct] of 30 December, from our guerrilla offensive. This is further proof of the low morale and decay of the puppet Army.

In conclusion, we want to add that at approximately 1010 to 1040, two A-37 planes fired scores of rockets and dropped powerful bombs in the western sector of Chalatenango Department, near the villages El Comun and (Cerro El Candelero).

This is a dispatch for Radio Farabundo Marti from the western sector of Chalatenango Department. This was correspondent Rosendo Lobo. [end recording]

FMLN Commanders on Operation

PA011449 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Interview with Commanders Dimas Rodriguez and Salvador Guerra, of the FMLN's Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza Command Post Group, by Radio Farabundo Marti correspondent Rosendo Lobo, on 31 December 1983, "somewhere in western Chalatenango Department" -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Lobo] Commander Dimas Rodriguez, what is the political and military significance of the operation that resulted in the defeat of the 4th Infantry Brigade of El Paraiso?

[Rodriguez] This operation is definitely a hard military blow to the dictatorship and imperialism, especially at this time, when the dictatorship, supported by imperialism, is desperately trying to train and increase the number of its troops. This blow will further lower the morale of officers and troops, and will force the dictatorship's Armed Forces to change their strategic plans.

This action has taken place at a time when the warmonger Ronald Reagan has irresponsibly decided to give unconditional help to the dictatorship. Ronald Reagan should know that by giving his unconditional help, he will suffer the fate and share the defeats of the dictatorship.

This action is already an example of what the Salvadoran people are capable of doing in an effort to break all the chains and interventionist plans of Yankee imperialism to help the dictatorship survive.

This action also shows that the latest (?lies) about elections will not confuse the peoples of the world and our people by giving the false impression that the dictatorship has found (?equilibrium) and solutions through elections. This action has also contributed to [words indistinct] in the political-military field.

For all these reasons, this action is an effective and strategic political-military blow that will [word indistinct] our people's liberation struggle.

[Lobo] Commander Dimas Rodriguez, do you have anything else to add in this brief interview?

[Rodriguez] What I would like to add is a call to the entire working class, all the exploited and oppressed sectors of our people, so that at this time all those who are subject to exploitation and oppression will fight together [words indistinct] for liberation, and also to find solutions to their most pressing problems, such as hunger, misery, and humiliation by the dictatorship's forces. Therefore, we urge all of our people to join our struggle at various levels; to join labor unions in order to demand wage increases, better treatment from management, and all their rights.

[Lobo] We will now interview Commander Salvador Guerra, who will give us an overall picture of the operations that began yesterday, 30 December, in Chalatenango. Commander Salvador Guerra, would you please tell us about the importance of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza Battalions and vanguard units?

[Guerra] This has really been a great step in our people's liberation struggle. The complexity of the military operation that was carried out, and that is still in progress, shows the advancement and qualitative improvement by our people in forming their popular army. The FMLN has been organizing its army for a long time, and at this time we can see that it has advanced in qualitative terms toward decisive battles. We also have other groups such as the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, the [name indistinct] Detachment, the Aguinada Carranza Battalion, and, today, the creation of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza Battalions, which is a qualitative step forward.

The historical step taken by our people in their struggle for liberation with the organization of their popular army brings them nearer to decisive victories and the final victory.

[Lobo] Thank you very much, Commander Salvador Guerra. We thank Commanders Dimas Rodriguez and Salvador Guerra for the opportunity they have given us to convey these important reports to our people.

Garrison Losses Totaled

PA030140 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 2 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 3 issued by the General Command of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, member of the FMLN, on 2 January 1984; place not given]

[Text] Following the occupation of the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison at El Paraiso by members of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza group, who took part in this heroic action, we wish to report to our people and the peoples of the world that:

1. The garrison was attacked at 0200 on 30 December and completely annihilated and occupied by our forces. Our battalions were in control of the ruined installation for 24 hours, until 0200 31 December, when they withdrew with no problem.

2. On the same day -- 30 December -- we fought from 0200 until the annihilation of the military detachment guarding the Soyate Bridge, on the highway to San Salvador. This was followed by clashes with reinforcements of the Atlacatl Battalion and of the 1st Infantry Brigade, which lasted until 1800.

3. At the same time, we annihilated one of the two sections that was in El Paraiso, which was (?trapped) by our units at 1000.

4. On the same day, our forces attacked a National Guard company in the village of San Rafael, north of El Paraiso, forcing them to flee the village in disarray at 1100.

The final results of the occupation of the garrison are: enemy casualties, 600, including approximately 20 officers and 40 noncommissioned officers killed. Here are the details:

a. Lieutenant Colonel (Ricardo Baquedano), the garrison's deputy commander. Colonel Ramon Morales Ruiz was not in the garrison. He had left the day before for San Salvador.

b. Lieutenant Colonel (Hugo Stanley Orantes) was killed in the garrison.

c. A captain, a lieutenant, and cadets of the garrison's guard house were killed while asleep.

d. In each of the nine garrison barracks there were approximately three officers with the ranks of lieutenant and 2d lieutenant whom it was not possible to identify. Most of the noncommissioned officers were killed in the company's barracks. Intelligence Department 2 was destroyed. Three sergeants who were in charge of questioning and torturing people were killed there. They could not be identified other than by the stripes on their uniforms, because they were buried under the rubble of the building.

The material seized from the enemy totalled 361 weapons, as follows: 305 rifles, mostly U.S. M-16's, 3 .50-cal machineguns; 20 M-60 machineguns; 7 .90-mm cannon; 2 .81-mm mortars; 3 .60-mm mortars; 11 M-79 grenade launchers; 10 MP-5 submachineguns; and 27 PRC-77 radio communication units.

In addition to this, the arsenal at each company was destroyed, and the general arms depot as well.

We also destroyed 2 armored vehicles, 2 Massinger vehicles, 5 Army trucks, and 10 other vehicles used by the officers.

We took 200 prisoners. Captain Pedro (?Wilfredo) Hidalgo, lead of the garrison's detachment 4, and his wife, Esperanza Samayoa de Hidalgo, were among those taken prisoner.

A list with the names of all prisoners will be released later. A total of 58 prisoners were left in the garrison because they were wounded.

The General Command of the FPL, member of the FMLN, thus complies with the duty of informing the people about the results of the operation "United We Will Defeat the Dictatorship and U.S. Intervention," after a thorough inspection of this heroic and victorious military maneuver.

General Command of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL

[Signed] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, Commander Dimas Rodriguez, Commander (Milton Mendez), Commander Salvador Guerra, and Commander Ricardo Gutierrez

[Dated] 2 January 1984

Government Forces Said Fleeing

PA022005 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Army's troops are fleeing. Soldiers are terrified and are fleeing in disarray from positions they had been holding in Chalatenango.

We are reporting to our people that an entire battalion of the demoralized enemy has fled from the positions it had been holding in El Barrancon and El Refugio, on the northern highway, Chalatenango Department, and in the municipalities of San Rafael and El Paraiso.

The fascist high command has hurriedly placed military forces at the (Tolima) Bridge in an effort to stop the flight of hundreds and hundreds of soldiers who are fleeing, terrified, through the Chalatenango cane fields.

This is the fighting spirit of hundreds and hundreds of soldiers of the decimated and demoralized Army of Vides Casanova. This is the large-scale operation that the Army is carrying out in Chalatenango Department: the flight en masse, the stampede en masse, of the Army troops trained by the Yankees.

FMLN Claims Control of Highway

PA022030 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people, national and international news media: Following the mass flight by an enemy battalion, the strategic northern trunk highway is under our control. This has been the case since 31 December.

We repeat: The strategic northern trunk highway, which leads to Honduras through this department of Chalatenango, is now under our complete and permanent revolutionary control.

The fascist high command only has troops in Nueva Concepcion, in the Chalatenango barracks, and in the rubble of the 4th Brigade barracks. It also has six or eight policemen at the El Poy border post.

The northern trunk highway today, on this new year of 1984, is free of repression, abuse, corruption, and terror. Drivers, passengers, and the local people are no longer being subjected to the terror and arbitrariness imposed by soldiers from the puppet Army.

We are informing the drivers of private and commercial vehicles, bus drivers, and passengers that they have every guarantee to travel on this important highway and to calmly engage in personal and commercial activities.

Our forces have been instructed to assist and guide all drivers and passengers on this highway. We are calling on all our heroic people, on businessmen, on passengers, and on drivers, to cooperate with our forces whenever they find revolutionary fighters and forces along the road.

FMLN DESTROYS CUSCATLAN BRIDGE, ELECTRIC SUBSTATION

PA011637 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Commander Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade in Morazan Department on 1 January 1984]

[Excerpt] The General Command of the Commander Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade reports that today, 1 January 1984, at 0500, battalions from the Lilian Mercedes Letona Northern Group, supported by artillery units from our support weapons battalion, attacked the enemy positions that guarded Cuscatlan Bridge and the 15 September Hydroelectric Dam.

Our forces advanced and attacked all the outer defenses, which were manned by more than 400 soldiers, penetrating under the cover of mortar fire until they reached the bridge's inner defenses. Our forces quickly annihilated the soldiers who were at the command post and casemates, as well as those in the trenches and fortifications of the eastern and southeastern sector of Cuscatlan Bridge.

By 0230, our sappers had totally blown up Cuscatlan Bridge and destroyed the electric substation of the 15 September Dam.

Colonel Monterrosa sent helicopters to desperately strafe the entire area around the bridge, which is densely populated. Likewise, one of the enemy's outlying defense positions opened indiscriminate fire with 120-mm mortars. There were many victims among the civilians living in the area, and Col Monterrosa has banned the press from entering in an attempt to prevent reports about these criminals acts.

The enemy has suffered many casualties, dead and wounded, including one lieutenant killed and another seriously wounded. This action is part of the political-military campaign that the FMLN began on 30 December under the slogan "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory." During this campaign, the FMLN will show superior levels of coordination and unity among its forces throughout the national territory. [passage omitted]

Revolution or death, we will win!

General Command of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade

[Signed] Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Commander Ana Sonia Medina, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Jorge Melendez

Havana on Destruction of Bridge

PA020255 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Even though the regime has remained completely silent, the Salvadoran guerrillas have confirmed the destruction of the strategic Cuscatlan Bridge, located 90 km east of San Salvador on the Pan American Highway. Patriotic sources have also reported that in the action they destroyed the 15 September hydroelectric plant substation located near the bridge, which was guarded by a large number of soldiers.

Havana on Aftermath of Attack

PA021714 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The provisional toll of Sunday's guerrilla attack on the Cuscatlan Bridge is one officer killed and several soldiers wounded.

The bridge, which joins the departments of San Vicente and Usulutan, was completely destroyed. The 450-meter bridge was only 90 km from San Salvador.

The bridge, which spanned the Lempa River, joined the cantons of San Lorenzo and Cuscatlan, and linked El Salvador's central and eastern regions.

Patriotic sources have reported that a 15 September Dam hydroelectric plant substation located across from the river was also destroyed. The regime had a military post there with 100 soldiers.

Reports from San Salvador indicate that U.S. military advisers went to the area hours after the action to assess the damage.

ARMY LAUNCHES VAST COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION

PA310010 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2007 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 30 Dec (DPA) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces have launched the largest military operation in the past 4 years against the guerrillas, it was reported today.

Official reports indicate that 20,000 Army troops are covering a vast sector of national territory, specifically 11 of the 14 departments of the Republic.

Departments not involved in military counterinsurgency operations are Ahuachapan, Sonsonate, and La Libertad.

The 20,000 Salvadoran Army troops, with the support of air units and combat planes, are being mobilized as follows:

In Morazan, operations continue in the southern part of the department, encompassing a vast region north of San Francisco Gotera, with new patrols and mop-up operations in search of guerrillas in the vicinity of Cerro Cacahuatique.

In the northern department of Chalatenango, 4th Brigade Detachment 1 units are active and have made contact, according to military reports, with rebels near the hydroelectric paints "La Chorrera del Guayabo" and "Cerron Grande."

Thus far the military commands have not given details of the number of casualties inflicted on the guerrillas in this northern region of the country.

In Cuscatlan Department, the 1st Brigade and Detachment 5 of Cojutepeque are combing the area around Guazapa Hill, and at the same time, in the department of San Salvador (to the north), in the province of "San Jose Guayabal," a group from the 1st Brigade is combing the area.

Military reports indicate that in the northern part of the Department of San Salvador, the operations have concluded, and that approximately 2,000 troops are combing the area and have started to climb the slopes of Guazapa Hill to evict the rebels from that zone.

According to the military reports, the operation has broad support from air and artillery units in shelling the foothills of "Guazapa Hill."

In the meantime, the cavalry regiment has continued to patrol the vast central part of the country, especially the southern zone, in a vast mop-up and patrol operation on the littoral highway (Pacific Ocean) covering five departments in both the central and eastern part of the country.

In Santa Ana (in the western part) the 2d Brigade launched an operation today in the northern part of the department, on the Honduran border that connects with Chalatenango Department, to surround rebels who were presumably seeking refuge in the northern part of Chalatenango Department and were, of course, trying to cross into Santa Ana Department.

In San Vicente and La Paz, in the central part of the country, units of the rmed Forces Communications Training Center and of the 5th Brigade continued their operations today supported by air units, while Detachment 3 in the southern department of the country, La Union, launched operations in the northern part in an attempt to rout rebels in Anamoros Province.

In Cabanas Department vast mopping-up operations have begun in the Provinces of Jutiapa, Cinquera, and Tejutepeque.

The operations will end early in the coming year to make transportation safer and to ensure tranquillity during the new year celebrations. Meanwhile, the military high command continued to meet at the Defense Ministry, analyzing the national situation and what might be considered the announcement of a new military order.

MILITARY COMMANDERS HOLD EMERGENCY MEETINGS

PA022125 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1928 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 2 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Colonel Adolfo Blandon, chief of staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, has reported that the Salvadoran military commanders held emergency sessions today to discuss the spectacular destruction of strategic positions by the guerrillas.

Col Blandon told REUTERS that the commanders will analyze the guerrillas' strength, but refused to give further details.

Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, 3d Infantry Brigade commander, said that the only way the Army can retain the initiative is by creating an effective intelligence network with the participation of the civilian population.

The rebel attacks follow shortly after the November changes in the Army commands aimed at better coordination and efficiency.

However, according to Salvadoran and foreign military sources, Lt Col Monterrosa -- one of the most respected commanders in the country -- said it will take months before mutual confidence can be established with the population, in order to counter the guerrillas' intelligence system.

Military sources said that the Army must accept a series of spectacular defeats until it can mount patrols and establish contacts throughout the country.

GUATEMALA

BORDER WITH EL SALVADOR REOPENED TO TRADE

PA301550 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona today [28 December] announced that the Guatemalan-Salvadoran border will be reopened tomorrow, Thursday.

He said that the presidents of the Central Banks of Guatemala and El Salvador signed the agreement today. He made the announcement in Quetzaltenango, where he was accompanying the head of state.

The economy minister said authorities from the two countries will give orders to reopen the border so that commercial activities can be resumed.

This agreement solves the problem of reopening the border, which otherwise would have remained pending until next year.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UNITY IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

PA010435 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2031 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, in his New Year's message today, promised "to continue the struggle for peace in Central America."

He stressed that he will continue to support the "Contadora Group" (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia), which this year started efforts that have contributed to avoiding war in the area.

Suazo Cordova also asked all Hondurans to unite, "because our country, owing to its geopolitical location, has been forced to adopt an attitude of the greatest importance and influence to the political and social crisis affecting Central America."

He asserted that his government has acted positively in presenting to the international community concrete proposals aimed at lasting peace within an overall and regional context, "for this strategic isthmus of the Western Hemisphere."

He said: "We have supported and will continue to support the Contadora Group's efforts, because we have faith in this Latin American forum."

He explained that the Contadora Group bases its actions on "the premise that it is up to the Central Americans themselves to solve their problems."

He said that is why he labels this group "an effort for solidarity, based on the interests of peace, justice, and freedom."

He explained that his government has had the political intention of struggling for peace, and the historical determination of not seeking temporary or permanent domination, but, on the contrary, of balance and harmony to help defeat violence, unrest, and uncertainty."

He said that in its struggle for peace, the Honduran Government relies "on ethical weapons, good will, political determination, the people's support, and decent negotiations befitting our dignity."

Suazo Cordova also called on Hondurans to rally around the Liberal government he heads, "to struggle for better living conditions, to face the economic crisis, and to carry out the development programs that our country needs." He warned that foreign forces are stalking our country, and that those enemies of democracy "have people who serve as their tools and who create distrust, violence, and social and political instability in Central America."

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON BORDER ISSUE

PA310445 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 10

[Communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat Press Office on 29 December 1983 in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] Based on the unofficial text of an article in the new Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador, of which the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat has a copy, which refers to border issues still pending between Honduras and El Salvador, the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat reports to the people of the nation:

1. According to the general peace treaty signed by the two republics on 30 December 1980 in Lima, Peru, the delimitation of border areas that have not been marked and the legal status of islands and sea areas will be determined according to norms and procedures established in the treaty;

2. The constitutional article in question recognizes that the general peace treaty signed by Honduras and El Salvador is valid and binding;

3. The border issues that are pending between the two republics will be handled according to the general peace treaty and international law; and

4. The Honduran side of the Joint Border Commission of Honduras and El Salvador and the Sovereignty and Border Commission, which are under the jurisdiction of the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat, is studying the text of the Salvadoran Constitution, so that at the right time our government can set forth its position in relation to this issue.

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, 29 December 1983

[Signed] Foreign Affairs Secretariat Press Office

NICARAGUA

AIR, SEA ATTACKS NEAR PUERTO SANDINO REPORTED

PA031303 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate in Managua on 2 January]

[Text] The Defense Ministry announces that:

1. Since 27 December there have been several clashes involving task forces comprised of Somozist mercenaries who have entered from Honduran territory.

These forces have been prevented by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] from succeeding in their attempts to seize various border towns.

2. As a result of these counterrevolutionary activities that began in late 1983, the following data have been obtained thus far:

Fighting took place on 27 and 28 December at (El Cumbo) Hill, Kilambe sector, north of Jinotega Department. A total of 30 counterrevolutionaries were annihilated.

Another 18 counterrevolutionaries were killed on 28 December in San Miguel, 8 km from Kilambe Hill.

On 31 December, 40 counterrevolutionaries were killed at (Achiote) Hill, 7 km northeast of Ciudad Sandino, formerly known as El Jicaro.

On 1 January, 10 counterrevolutionaries were killed in San Diego, 9 km southwest of Ciudad Sandino.

Another 25 mercenaries were killed on 1 January at Chachagua Hill, 10 km northwest of Wiwili.

3. At 2345 on 1 January, an unidentified plane fired rockets near Puerto Sandino. Shortly after this, two boats fired at a fishing boat that was near the port. Companero Noel Briceno was killed. When pursued, the boats fled toward deeper territorial waters, where a larger ship was observed.

4. During these clashes, a quantity of weapons, ammunition, and military supplies were seized, including those seized from the mercenaries of the traitorous Pastora during a clash at Bartola River, 7 km southeast of El Castillo. These mercenaries fled toward Costa Rican territory because of the pressure exerted by the EPS.

5. The EPS forces are continuing to operate against these mercenary incursions, most of which originate in Honduran territory.

U.S. Blamed for Attacks

PA031326 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua in "January"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reports that at 0145 yesterday, 2 January, two Piranha-type speedboats that were going to attack the facilities at Puerto Sandino were detected by a Nicaraguan fishing boat. Upon being discovered, the boats attacked the fishing boat, killing its captain, Companero Noel Briceno.

When two Sandinist coast guard ships arrived at the site, the attacking boats went farther out to sea, with the Nicaraguan ships in pursuit. As a result of this pursuit, the presence of a ship of considerable size was observed, and the two speedboats that were being pursued were seen heading toward it. The Nicaraguan coast guard ships were ordered to return, since it was recognized that this might have been a U.S. warship.

The strange circumstances surrounding this attempt to launch a new attack on the Puerto Sandino facilities, especially the presence of the large ship, lead to the assumption that the attacking speedboats were transported in this ship to the area near Puerto Sandino.

The fact that U.S. warships are constantly seen in that sector, as well as in other sectors along our coasts and in our territorial waters, makes it impossible to discard the possibility that these warships may be used to transport the speedboats closer to their objectives.

In view of the above, the Nicaraguan Government holds the U.S. Government responsible for these criminal attacks, which are a part of its undeclared war on the Nicaraguan people, and which violate the most elemental norms that should govern relations among states.

FURTHER REPORTS ON COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CASUALTIES

PA301554 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The number of counterrevolutionaries killed in combat against troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in the past 3 days in northern Nicaragua has risen to 48.

Defense Ministry sources reported that 7 more bodies of Somozists were found on El Cumbo Hill, 8 km south of Kilambe, in Jinotega Deaprtment, where 23 counterrevolutionaries were killed in clashes on 26 December. The sources added that this latest figure brings the number of Somozist beasts killed in that area, where the EPS continues its search and combing operations, to 30.

It was also reported that since 26 December fighting has been taking place in the San Miguel area, 8 km east of Kilambe Hill, also in Jinotega Department. As a result of these actions, 18 counterrevolutionaries have been killed, for a total of 48 counterrevolutionaries killed in the past few days.

Havana Cites Casualty Figures

FL301521 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense has reported that 48 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in the northern Department of Jinotega, where counterrevolutionary forces and the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] have been fighting for the past 3 days.

The latest official report said that 25 members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force have been killed. This is in addition to the 23 that were killed last Tuesday at Cerro El Cumbo, located 190 km north of Managua.

In northern Nicaragua, the EPS is opposing an offensive by more than 2,000 counterrevolutionaries. This offensive is considered to be one of the three biggest launched in 1983 by the counterrevolutionaries.

40 Killed Near Honduran Border

PA021502 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Approximately 40 counterrevolutionaries have died in five clashes that have taken place in the past 2 days on the outskirts of San Fernando and Santa Clara, near the border with Honduras.

This information was provided by Deputy Commander Roberto Sanchez, head of the Defense Ministry's Public Relations and Information Office.

The attacks being repelled by the Sandinist People's Army are launched by the counter-revolutionary bands based in Honduran territory that are trying to infiltrate our territory, our source reported.

GOVERNMENT JUNTA'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE BROADCAST

PA311745 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 31 Dec 83

[New Year's message from the FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, issued a Managua on 31 December, read by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction -- live]

[Text] From: The FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction

To: The heroic people of Nicaragua

Nicaraguan brothers: In 1983, the main protagonists in the struggle for peace and sovereignty were the Nicaraguan people, whose weapons, in their strong and loyal hands, were irreplaceable tools to defend the fatherland and to support the revolution's policy of peace.

In 1983 there was an increase in violent counterrevolutionary activities by Somozists and by traitors in line with a U.S. Government interventionist strategy that put Central America on the verge of an armed confrontation.

Nicaragua was the victim of campaigns that involved deliberate lies and systematic activities directed against international efforts to achieve a negotiated solution. The Sandinist people's revolution, continuously clashing with its enemies, faced risks and challenges. Making decisions quickly became routine, and the revolution neutralized, one by one, the pretexts and provocations put forth to destroy Nicaragua. These activities reached a peak with the U.S. Government's arrogant invasion of Grenada.

Not boastfully, but firmly, the Nicaraguan people prepared, and continue to prepare, to defend the fatherland. Imperialist plans for a cold-blooded, criminal direct intervention against the fatherland have crashed against this defense.

The war that we are facing, which has made heroism a duty, this year has meant the sacrifice of 947 Nicaraguans -- workers, peasants, technicians, and professionals -- dead, wounded, or kidnapped. These Nicaraguans were involved in production and social activities in the border areas. Soldiers, reservists, militiamen, volunteer policemen, professionals, technicians, city and rural workers, internationalists, women, and children have died in defense of the attacked and slandered fatherland.

Many heroes and martyrs confirmed with their blood their militancy in the FSLN and in the 19 July Sandinist Youth.

The military victories of the armed people have made it very costly for the criminal counterrevolutionary forces [2-minute break in transmission].

The poverty and backwardness we have inherited do not allow us to satisfy all basic needs, but we face them with the people's participation in making our economy increasingly rational and in sustaining increases in productivity.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the world crisis, in spite of imperialist aggression against our country, our economy has had a positive growth rate, at a time when most Latin-American countries have had a negative growth rate.

This has been possible because the limited available resources have been used to promote productive activities and to sustain sources of employment for the labor sector while deliberately hitting the consumption of luxury items.

The work of the people, their revolutionary alertness, and voluntary participation by thousands of young people in picking coffee and cotton and in other productive activities were fundamental factors that contributed to our achievements, especially in the agricultural and livestock sector, which had the largest economic growth.

One of the most important achievements took place as a result of the agrarian reform plans: During this year 1983, 530,000 manzanas of land were given to 13,225 peasant families. All that Somozism had done in this sector was to return to the peasants 160,000 manzanas of poor land that it had stolen from them.

We used our limited resources to fight disease, illiteracy and backwardness. This has resulted in social advances, in 16,930 new jobs, in the massive enrollment of students at all levels for a total of 995,323, in an increase in hospital beds, in the application of the national system of oral health for children, and in 3,215,366 vaccinations that have resulted in a quick drop of the child mortality rate.

In 1983 international solidarity from governments and peoples was on the side of the heroic people of Sandino and against aggression and the threat of foreign intervention. It was in favor of peace. This solidarity was also made clear in the form of unconditional economic cooperation, which was valuable in counteracting the effect of the $110 million loss caused by the foreign aggression.

With the conclusion of the year of peace and sovereignty, we begin a new year: 1984. In 1984 we will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the murder of the father of the popular and anti-imperialist revolution: Augusto Cesar Sandino.

In 1984, Sandinism will spread across regions, rivers, beaches, and roads. It will visit factories and villages. It will be a border guard, a sentry, a revolutionary watchman. It will be work, music, and a banner.

We will call this coming year: 1984 -- 50 years later, Sandino is alive. Sandino lives in the people's power; Sandino lives in the Nicaraguans' patriotic fire; Sandino lives in the destiny we share with the Latin American people; Sandino lives in the agrarian reform, in the continuous literacy effort, and in the people's determination to defend to the death the land where his immortal remains are buried.

Free fatherland or death

National Directorate of the FSLN

Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction

Managua, Nicaragua, 31 December 1983, the year of the struggle for peace and sovereignty

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUBAN REVOLUTION MARKED

Ruiz Attends Ceremonies

PA310400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0023 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 30 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Planning Minister Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate, left today for Havana to participate in the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The Sandinist leader was seen off at Sandino Airport by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Cuba celebrates the anniversary of its revolution on 1 January, the date on which Fidel Castro defeated Fulgencio Batista.

Ruiz, who left with Construction Minister Mauricio Valenzuela, will sign a bilateral Cuban-Nicaraguan scientific-technical agreement for 1984 in Havana.

Recently Sergio Ramirez, Sandinist junta member, and Osmani Cienfuegos, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, signed the second commercial agreement for $40 million in Managua.

Ortega Sends Message

PA011519 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, on behalf of the revolutionary government and the people of Sandino, has sent the following message of congratulations to Commander Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, on the occasion of the 1 January commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution:

I want to sincerely congratulate you and express the fraternal affection that the Nicaraguans feel for you and the brotherly people of Cuba, the message states. It adds: The Cuban people's example of self-denial and sacrifice and their tireless struggle against the imperialist aggressor is a source of inspiration for our people, who love peace and self-determination.

On a day like today, several decades ago, the brotherly people of Cuba began building their own history. We Nicaraguans join you in joyfully celebrating this.

The Government of National Reconstruction takes advantage of this opportunity to state that today more than ever the Nicaraguan people are proud of their fraternal relations with Cuba and of the exemplary cooperation extended to us by Cuba.

The message adds: Cuban-Nicaraguan friendship has been reaffirmed with the blood of Cuban teachers who have died at the side of Nicaraguan peasants and teachers, victims of the terrorist policy of the people's enemy.

Dear Companero Fidel, the people of Sandino send a warm and combative greeting to you, your people, your government, and your party.

[Signed] Fraternally yours, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta.

Havana Reports Greetings Message

FL311415 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, has sent a message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in which he states that the people of Nicaragua are proud of their fraternal relations with Cuba. The message was sent in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Daniel Ortega Saavedra stresses the fact that the example of Cuban self-denial and sacrifice constitutes a source of inspiration for all those who are on the side of peace and self-determination on our continent and in the entire world. The Sandinist leader adds that Cuban-Nicaraguan friendship has been reaffirmed by the blood shed by Cuban teachers who were killed along with Nicaraguan peasants and educators, victims of the policy of terror of the peoples' enemies.

The message ends: "Please accept, esteemed Comrade Fidel, your people, your government, and your party, the warm and combative greetings of the people of General Augusto Cesar Sandino."

SPECULATION ON REPLACEMENT OF U.S. ENVOY CITED

PA021521 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] New York -- Anthony Quainton, the current U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, will be replaced soon because his reports on advances in Nicaragua have angered former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The "Washington Talk" section of THE NEW YORK TIMES today quotes several Reagan administration officials as saying that reports submitted by Quainton to the U.S. State Department undermine some of the conclusions of the Kissinger commission for Central America.

BORGE VISA DENIAL TO BE PUT BEFORE U.S. COURTS

PA021425 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] (Ramona Richton), director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and (Susan Bender), the union's legal representative in Washington, are among the U.S. attorneys who will file suit against the U.S. Government for refusing to issue a visa to Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez.

During a meeting with these women from the United States, Interior Minister Tomas Borge explained that he wants to visit the United States to tell the people that Nicaragua is presenting the olive branch of peace, which is the best alternative, but that it is also prepared to defend itself.

Borge said that since 1982 he has been trying to go to the United States to honor invitations from 14 universities and to present the true situation of Nicaragua and its revolution. He said he incurred expenses preparing for the trip, and then, the day before he was scheduled to leave, Ambassador Quainton informed him of the U.S. refusal to issue a visa for entry into the United States.

HAVANA CITES TOMAS BORGE REMARKS TO TASS

PA020210 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Tomas Borge, a member of the Nicaraguan FSLN Directorate, has said that his country will never bow to imperialist dictates, and he stressed that relations with the Soviet Union are increasingly deeper and imbued with content. In remarks to the Soviet news agency TASS, Borge explained that the USSR carries out a tireless struggle to ward off the danger of a nuclear war.

The Sandinist leader highly valued Nicaragua's links with the Soviet Union and he emphasized the Soviet people's achievements in the economic and scienctific and technological fields. The Soviets, he said, liberated the world from the night of fascism, and today they are the vanguard in the struggle for peace.

ARDE REPORTS 3 KILLED IN PUNTA GORDA AREA

PA300435 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 137 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command in the "mountains of Nicaragua," on 29 December]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world that:

At 1400 on 27 December the Francisco (Auey) squad led by Saturano ambushed a Managua totalitarian regime army patrol on the Cano Eloisa Delta in the Punta Gorda area. The fighting lasted 5 minutes, and three of the enemy were killed. Our forces withdrew immdiately after the attack, since a hit-and-run strategy was used in the ambush. Three to five fighters take part in this type of an operation.

Death to the Cuban and foreign interventionists! Without totalitarism, or a return to the past!

RADIO 15 SEPTEMBER REPORTS CLASHES IN EL CUA

PA312325 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 48

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The clandestine radio station "Radio 15 September," official radio station of the FDN, reported in its two most recent transmissions that two helicopters of the Sandinist Air Force [FAS] were downed by rebel commands in El Cua, Jinotega Department, in the northern part of Nicaragua, when the FAS attacked rebel positions in that town. El Cua, 147 km northwest of Managua, was attacked by the FDN's "Diriangen" Task Force on 20 December. The attack was aimed at the central command and the militarized installations of APRO-AGRO [not further identified], PROCAMPO [Directorate or Peasant Promotion], MICOIN [Domestic Trade Ministry], ENABAS [Nicaragua Basic Food Enterprise], ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise], Santa Ana Hacienda, El Trebol, Quebrada de los Aparejos, and Rio Abajo del Cua.

The rebel radio station first reported that the Sandinist troops had suffered approximately 100 casualties during the fighting and that a FAS helicopter had been downed. However, in today's transmission, the rebel station reported 190 Sandinist casualties and two, instead of one, helicopters downed.

Meanwhile, FDN spokesmen said that "armed peasants" of the "Rafaela Herrera" Task Force are delivering hard blows to Sandinist troops in the northern department of Jinotega. The rebel station reported that on 27 December, the anti-Sandinist guerrillas launched a surprise attack on Sandinist positions defended by the Brigade 363 [as published], in the place known as Plan de Gramma, some 30 km southeast of Wiwili. According to reports, the Sandinist troops lost more than 50 men.

A Sandinist brigade is comprised of four battalions: A battalion has more than 400 men.

FDN COMMANDER CLAIMS COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GAINS

PA011837 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 4

[Excerpt] "The end of the Sandino-communist dictatorship is nearer than the Nicaraguan people believe. The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) controls more than 75 percent of Matagalpa Department. However, we did not come here to remain, but to go on to Managua."

This statement was made in Nicaraguan territory by Commander "Tono," who heads the Jorge Salazar Task Force. Commander Tono said that in recent weeks many Sandinist People's Army (EPS) members have been joining the FDN "commandos of liberty."

Tono said: "Until recently, only militiamen -- young people with little training -- joined us, but in recent weeks, large numbers of EPS members have been joining us. The latest group of EPS soldiers who joined the 'commandos of liberty' was comprised of more than 100 people."

What Commander "Tono" said coincides with what official FDN spokesmen stated earlier. FDN spokesmen have also said that a change of strategy in the struggle for Nicaragua's freedom has been implemented since the beginning of this week. Until now, the spokesmen noted, the FDN had been carrying out the classic hit-and-run guerrilla warfare strategy, that is, fighters had not been retaining control of territory from which they had dislodged the enemy.

With the implementation of the new strategy, the FDN will try to maintain control over any territory from which the EPS is driven in order to claim a "liberated territory and to establish a parallel government that would seek international recognition."

Commander "Tono" said in this regard that "the EPS does not dare go into most of Matagalpa Department. They are afraid because they know that all that territory is under our control."

Meanwhile, other task forces -- the "Rafaela Herrera," the "Diriagen," and others -- also claim they control other important areas in northern Nicaragua.

The MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas] organization also claims that it controls a good portion of Nueva Segovia. They base their assertion on the fact that more than 1,000 Indians who fled from Francia Sirpe were able to flee to Honduras through that area.

REPORTAGE ON REVOLUTION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Castro Address

FL020323 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0215 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Speech given by Cuban President Fidel Castro at a ceremony held at Santiago de Cuba's Town Hall to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and to present the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Antonio Maceo Order to that city -- live]

[Text] Residents of Santiago, compatriots from all of Cuba: Twenty-five years ago we came here almost at this same time to address the people from this balcony. It will not be useless to remember -- because of its continuing validity, its moral value, and its historic nature -- that some of the statements made that night referred to the events of the moment that demanded great attention, but they also categorically expressed what would be the fundamental direction of our revolutionary behavior. [Fidel begins reading speech made 25 years ago]

We have finally arrived in Santiago. [applause] The path has been arduous and long, but we have made it. The revolution is beginning now. The revolution will not be an easy task. The revolution will be a difficult undertaking, full of perils. The revolution will not be carried out in one day. However, I can assure you that the revolution will be carried out. I can assure you that for the first time the Republic will be truly free and the people will have what they deserve.

We do not believe that the problems will be solved easily. We know that the path is full of obstacles, but we are men of faith who always face up to great difficulties. The people may be sure of one thing, and this is that we will make many more mistakes, but what will never be said about us is that we steal, that we arrange dirty deals, that we betray.

We will never be blinded by vanity and ambitions because as our apostle said, all the glory in the world is the size of a grain of corn, and there is no greater satisfaction nor greater reward than to fullfill our duty, as we have done thus far and as we will always do. I speak on behalf of the thousands and thousands of combatants who have made the people's victory possible. I speak about our profound feelings and devotion to our dead who will not be forgotten.

This time, as in other instances, no one will be able to say that we have betrayed the memory of the dead, because the dead will continue to give us order. The mere knowledge that their sacrifice will not be in vain compensates for the immense vacuum they have left behind. [applause]

The revolution has assumed power without commitments to anyone except the people, to whom it owes its victory. Fortunately, the rifles' task has come to an end. They will be kept accessible to the men who will have the duty of defending our sovereignty and rights, but when our people feel threatened, not only will the 30,000 or 40,000 members of the Armed Forces fight, but also the 300,000 or 400,000 or 500,000 Cubans, men and women, who may take up arms. There will be enough weapons. [applause] There will be enough weapons for all those who want to fight when the time comes for defending our freedom. It has been demonstrated that in Cuba not only the men fight, but also the women.[applause]

When the men and women of a nation fight, it is an invincible nation. We will organize the militias, or women's reserves, and we will keep them trained. They will all be volunteers. Those young women I see standing there, dressed in the black and red of the 26 July Movement, I am sure they will learn how to handle weapons. [applause] This nation deserves a better destiny, deserves the happiness it has never achieved in the 50 years it has been a Republic. It deserves to be one of the first nations in the world for its intelligence, courage, and determination.

No one can say that I speak demagogically. No one can say that I want to please the people. I have sufficiently demonstrated my faith in the people, because when I landed on a Cuban beach with 82 men, and the people said we were crazy, and asked us why we believed we could win the war, I said: Because the people are on our side. When we were defeated the first time, and only a handful of men remained, we continued to fight. We knew we were going to win, because we had faith in the people. When we were dispersed five times in 45 days and we reunited and renewed the struggle, it was because we had faith in the people, and today it has been demonstrated that the faith we had was justified. [applause]

I have the satisfaction of having profoundly believed in the Cuban people and of having instilled this faith in my comrades. This faith, which today is more than just a simple faith, is a complete assurance in all our men. A complete assurance that we have in all our men -- and this same faith that all of us have in you -- is the same faith that we want you to always have in us. [applause]

The Republic was not free in 1895, and the dream of the freedom fighters was frustrated at the last minute. The revolution was not accomplished in 1933 and was frustrated by her enemies. This time, the revolution has the entire people. It has all of the revolutionaries. This force is so large and so uncontainable that this time triumph is assured. We can say with jubilation that after four centuries, for the first time, we will be completely free, and the work of the freedom fighters will be accomplished.

A few days ago, it was impossible for me to resist the temptation to visit my mother, who I had not seen in years. When I was returning at night by way of Los Mangos de Baragua, a profound emotion of devotion came over me for those who travelled with me. It made us stop there, at the monument that commemorates the protest of Baragua and the beginning of the invasion.

At that moment, the reality of the place, the memory of those exploits in the battles for our independence, the idea that those men had fought for 30 years and had not been able to attain their dreams, the thought that the country would still be frustrated, and the premonition that very soon the revolution that they had dreamed about, the nation that they had dreamed about, would be a reality, made us experience one of the most profound emotions that one can conceive.

I saw those men alive again, with their sacrifice, with those sacrifices that we have also known first hand. I thought about their dreams and their hopes, which were also our dreams and hopes. And I felt that this generation of Cubans will give and has already given the most fervant tribute of recognition and loyalty to the heroes of our independence.

The men who fell in the three wars of independence today join their efforts with those men who have fallen in this battle and all of our dead in the battles for liberty; we can tell them that the time has finally come for their dreams to be fulfilled. The time has finally come for you, our people, our noble and good people, to have what you need. [applause]

These words were spoken 25 years ago in an impromptu speech in the heat of emotions and in the midst of the turmoil of events of that day. The language has changed; today the goals, the objectives, the problems are different ones, which at that time seemed far off. It would not be necessary to express what has been demonstrated during 25 years, but the basic ideas of those days, the same ones that inspired us years before the 26th of July, 1953, have stayed immutable; they are and will always have permanence. [applause]

In those days, one did not speak of the Marxist-Leninist party, of socialism, or of internationalism. Capitalism was not even mentioned by name. Also, at that time very few understood the revolution's true significance. However, everything that has occured since then in our nation, the incredible advances that our political process has made, the historic place that our country holds in the world today, our ideas and our national experience is a direct result of that sacred revolutionary commitment that we made to the people. [applause]

That same night, I expressed an essential element in this way: You know that we are men of our word, what we promise to do, we do, and we want to promise less than what we will actually accomplish, not more but less. We want to do more than what we offer the people of Cuba. [applause]

Contrary to what happened in the political history of our country, during which a revolutionary program was never attempted or completed after having been promised to the people many times, this time our Moncada program was not only completed, but we advanced much further, just as we who organized the attack on the Moncada Barracks and founded the 26 July Movement had dreamed. Our people were able to create in the Western Hemisphere the first socialist state which is the most advanced political and social system known in the history of mankind.

This time the people were not frustrated. The ones who were frustrated were the imperialists, the latifundists, the oligarchs, the bourgeois, and other reactionaries, who were always sure that any revolutionary program in Cuba or in Latin America would exist only on paper or would be corrupt and would end up in the wastebasket. [applause]

If the road that began in Yara on 10 October 1868 was long, the road that brought us to this 25th anniversary of the victorious revolution has been long and hard, glorious and heroic.

On that same day, 1 January 1959, an attempt was made to steal the victory from the people when most of the enemy's combat troops were surrounded and at the point of surrendering or being wiped out. The island was divided into two parts, and the people were on a war footing. A military coup took place in the capital of the Republic. Its main leader was the chief of the enemy's operational troops in Oriente [Province] who a few days earlier on 28 December had met with us, had recognized the defeat of the Army, and had agreed on the manner, day, and hour to end the fighting and accept the victory of the revolution. That commitment was broken.

The coup was carried out with the participation of the U.S. Embassy and with the complicity of Batista himself. This 11th hour attempt was deemed necessary by imperialism, which underestimating the rebel army and the Cuban people, intended to use the coup to gain time to orchestrate a mediating and intervering formula like the one in 1933, and for which imperialism believed it could count on having until 24 February 1959, when the government which was chosen in the electorial comedy of November of 1958 would take office.

The explosive offensive of the rebel army during the month of December did not give imperialism the time to wait for that date. At all costs it tried to save the old Army, created by interventionist Yankee troops at the beginning of the century, as a substitute for the glorious army of freedom fighters, the Mambi Army. That army, organized, equipped, trained, indoctrinated, and corrupted by imperialism, had been the fundamental pillar of imperialist domination for almost 60 years. However, the coup was undone by the rebel army and the people, who in less than 72 hours occupied all the military installations of the country and consolidated the victory. [applause]

When we met in Santiago de Cuba that night, the situation was still confused, and although we were totally convinced of the final results, we were unaware of whether or not there would have to be bloody fighting in the capital of the Republic. The Cuban workers wrote an indelible page when they unanimously, enthusiastically, and absolutely supported the call for a general strike, issued by the command of the rebel army from Palma Soriano on the morning of 1 January. [applause]

The extraordinary strength, that combative spirit of the people had not been take into account by Yankee imperialism, when it made its calculations and prognostications. Moreover, that characteristic of our people cannot be underestimated. It was not in vain that they alone had to face hundreds of thousands of Spanish soldiers for nearly 30 years in the most heroic of America's wars of independence. [applause]

The character of a nation is not forged in a day, but neither can it be destroyed once it has been formed, not even over centuries of subjugation, exploitation, and domination.

What we can say today is that we have neither been beneath our titans of '68 and '95, nor the heroic fighters of Moncada, the Sierra Maestra, and the valley. [applause]

When we began in Santiago de Cuba the glorious road of these past 25 years, we knew that our people would be worthy of the exploits that were proposed. Who knows, who can better testify to it than Yankee imperialism itself. It has not even found in our people a single moment of vacillation, doubt, weakness, or fear. In the growing and impotent hatred of imperialism is the measure of the merits of our revolution. [applause]

Cowards are despised, humiliated, subjugated. However, the hostility, hate, lies, threats, and aggressions of Yankee imperialism have bombarded the Cuban revolution for 25 years. It was our fate to play the historic role of confronting the most powerful imperialist nation in the world here, at a distance of 90 miles or even less, or at a distance of 90 millimeters if we consider the occupied territory of the Guantanamo Naval Base. [applause]

The revolution did not tremble or hesitate when the time came to give an exemplary punishment to the war criminals, as we had promised the people; to confiscate property stolen from the nation by corrupt rulers; to defend the rights, full sovereignty, and dignity of our people; to take action against the interests of the great exploitative Yankee monopolies and the national bourgeoisie; to lower the rates charged by public utilities, rents, and medicines; to arrange for the reemployment of all those who had been fired by tyranny.

It did not tremble or hesitate when it decreed the deepest and most radical agrarian reform ever carried out in Latin America, which affected not only the great estates that belonged to Cuban nationals but also the immense holdings of U.S. agricultural enterprises.

It did not tremble or hesitate to return a blow for every act of economic aggression by the United States, nationalizing one by one all the Yankee firms that owned sugar mills, telephone and electric companies, railroads, ports, mines, commercial chains, and banks.

It did not tremble or hesitate when it became necessary to nationalize the entire banking industry, foreign commerce, and all the great capitalistic firms in the country.

It did not tremble or hesitate to tear out racial discrimination by the roots and eradicate gambling, prostitution, drugs, and begging. [applause]

It did not tremble or hesitate when it became necessary to create the workers' and peasants' militias and to receive socialist arms to oppose the counterrevolutionary bands, the murders of literacy campaign workers, laborers, and peasants, terrorist attacks, the attempts to assassinate the revolutionary leaders, and CIA sabotage plans. And we knew how to honor with growing indignation and firmness the dozens of victims caused by the crimes of the U.S. Government, especially the brutal sabotage of the steamship La Coubre.

The revolution did not tremble or hesitate to confront the mercenary invasion at Giron, or to proclaim the socialist nature of the revolution on the same day, [applause] on the same day that we had to bury those who had been killed in the cowardly bombing attacks, and on the eve of decisive battles in which our people fought and heroically won, defending then the flags of socialism. [applause]

It did not tremble or hesitate in October 1962 when faced with the threat of invasion and nuclear war immediately after a crisis that occurred entirely as a consequence of the criminal Yankee aggressions and threats against our nation and the measures taken to defend ourselves.

It did not tremble or hesitate in firmly uniting all the revolutionary forces, in embracing the doctrines of Marxism-Leninism, in forging a vanguard party, a vigorous Union of Young Communists, or in creating powerful organizations for workers, peasants, neighborhoods, women, students, and even for children and adolescents who would be educated in the principles of their parents and in the love for the revolution. [applause]

The revolution did not tremble or hesitate before the colossal job of liquidating unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance, and the calamitous state of public health in our country by creating centers of employment, child care centers, primary, secondary, pre-university, and technological schools, universities, special educational centers for exceptional children, rural, pediatric, maternal-children's, clinical-surgical, and polyclinic hospitals, dozens of specialized medical research and treatment centers, and numerous cultural and sports installations for the mental and physical development of our youth and our people.

It did not tremble or hesitate in setting out on the long difficult road to economic and social dvelopment, starting from a backward, deformed, dependent economy inherited from colonialism.

And, in the midst of a brutal economic blockade by those who had been our suppliers of equipment, technology, projects, and raw materials, we undertook the long road that demanded immeasurable effort, perseverance, and sacrifice, the drawing up of annual and 5-year plans, the creation of construction enterprises, industrial assembly enterprises, planning enterprises, the building of a strong infrastructure of roads, highways, railroads, and ports, the formation and development of the merchant marine and the fishing fleet, the mechanization of the cane harvest and all agricultural activities, rural electrification, the construction of dams and irrigation and drainage canals, the introduction of fertilizers and chemistry in general, the improvement of livestock, artificial insemination, and numerous other techniques in our backward agriculture, the beginning of industrialization of our country, the training of hundreds of thousands of workers, mid-level technicians, the university students, the founding of dozens of scientific research centers, and the development of solid economic relations with the socialist camp, [which was] an entirely new road for which, in the beginning, we had no experience at all.

On this road, we have built thousands of industrial, agricultural, and social projects in the course of these years. Consequently, the panorama of our fields and cities has radically changed. Work has been humanized in all the fundamental aspects of production by the use of technology and machines. Numerous large-scale works are under construction or are beginning operations in the energy field, including our first electronuclear powerhouse, a new oil refinery, great nickel-processing enterprises, important textile and spinning mills, the geological exploration of the country, the search for and extraction of oil, great steel foundries and mills, and great plans for other basic, light, and food industries.

New sugar mills are being built with 100 percent of the plans, and more than 60 percent of the component parts are produced in Cuba. Intensive, methodical work is being done on the prospective plans and on the lines of socioeconomic development to the year 2000.

One proof of how much productivity has increased is the fact that only 12 years ago 350,000 canecutters were emloyed in the sugar harvest and today, to produce much more sugar, less than 100,000 are employed. This has not created any unemployment. The same has happened in other agricultural fields, in industry, construction, and transport at the same time as the number and quality of jobs in the different fields of production and services has increased. What other Latin American country can say the same? [applause]

Today, everyone, including our enemies, accepts the fact that our public health and our education [systems] constitute an impressive success never achieved by any other country of the so-called Third World, or even by several of the countries included on the list of industrialized countries.

Nevertheless, our enemies dare to question the successes of our economic development. The truth is that our economy, in spite of the brutal Yankee economic blockade, has grown at an average annual rate of approximately 4.7 percent since the triumph of the revolution. Some years it has grown less, other years more, for a rate of growth that is one of the highest in Latin America during this period. [applause]

If this were not so, how could we support a system of education that costs more than 1.5 billion pesos per year and a health system the cost of which is over 500 million, which is dozens of times what was spent under capitalism for these purposes? How could we have made ourselves into a nation without unemployment, and with an advanced social security system that benefits all the workers without exception? How could we be, after Argentina, which has an enormous area of agricultural lands and enormous herds of livestock, the second best nourished country in Latin America, with almost 3,000 calories and almost 80 grams of protein per person per day, as was recently recognized by an institution that is an enemy and disparager of the Cuban revolution? [applause]

How could we hold an outstanding place in sports, culture, and scientific research? How could we be a country without abandoned children, without beggars, without prostitution, gambling, or drugs? [applause] At any rate, many of these activities constitute the sad means of livelihood of innumerable persons, not only to underdeveloped countries but in almost all the industrialized capitalist countries.

How could we receive and technically train more than 20,000 young people from Asia, Africa, and Latin America and give our cooperation to more than 30 Third World countries? [applause]

It is possible, of course, not only because our economy has grown, but also because our exchanges with the socialist countries -- which today account for more than 80 percent of Cuba's trade -- do not suffer the growing inconsistency and arbitrariness in its prices that the Third World suffers in its economic relations with the developed capitalist countries.

It is possible because our wealth is better distributed, because the fruits of our economy do not stay in the hands of monopolies or in the pockets of rulers, because there is no capital flight, and because we have a hard-working, enthusiastic, generous and united people, whose children are capable of any task and any mission inside as well as outside the country. [applause]

We have an incalculable treasure, unknown in capitalist societies: a new man, with new values and new concepts of life for whom no job is too difficult or impossible. [applause]

Speaking of our internationalist spirit, we recently said to some foreign journalists: When teachers were requested to go to Nicaragua, nearly 30,000 volunteered. When a few months later they murdered some Cuban teachers, another 100,000 volunteered. [applause]

The United States has its Peace Crops, the churhces have their missionaries. Cuba alone has more citizens willing to complete those tasks in any part of the world than the United States and all the churches combined. That spirit is reflected in work inside as well as outside of our fatherland.

Another proof of the strength of our development can be added: Despite the enormous amount of resources that we are obligated to invest in the defense of our country, the education, health, culture, sports, science, and technology budgets grow each year. Every year we invest more resources in housing construction and maintenance. Every year we invest a large amount in industry, agriculture, and the economic infrastructure.

For this year, 1984, the budget for science and technology is growing by 15.6 percent; that for public health by 14.3 percent; that for housing, and community services by 14.1 percent; that for sports by 10.8 percent; that for culture and art by 9.1 percent; that for education by 5.1 percent; and that for social security and social assistance by 4.2 percent. Despite these increases, our income and budgetary spending will be balanced.

In the rest of the countries of this hemisphere, one only hears news about the increase of unemployment and the reduction of the budgets for education, health, and other social costs. In the midst of the world economic crisis, while the combined Latin American economies declined by 1 percent in 1982 and by 3.3 percent in 1983, Cuba's economy increased by 2.5 percent in 1982 and by 5 percent in 1983. The same growth rate is projected for 1984. [applause]

Recently, I explained how the revolution had begun its successful health program with only 3,000 doctors, and that we now have nearly 20,000 and in the next 16 years 50,000 more will graduate. [applause]

The selection, the training, the work of these doctors, the concept of their utilization, and our health care system will place Cuba in first place in the world in this field in just 15 or 20 more years. [applause]

Our progress in education is similar. With ambitious goals, we will work in all fields. I said at the conclusion of the final session of the People's Government National Assembly on 1 January 1959 that we were completely lacking in experience. We had nothing but ideas -- good and noble ideas without doubt, but only ideas. The achievements realized in these years brought forward very modest men who came from the ranks of the people.

It was usually a humble worker who was unexpectedly called upon to do the work of the manager or the former owner, who did not want to cooperate or were leaving the country. Despite that, starting practically from zero, we have made extraordinary progress.

Today, after 25 years, we have hundreds of thousands of technicians and tens of thousands of cadres who have been trained by the revolution. Today we have a vanguard party, which has experience and nearly half a million members, the Union of Young Communists with more than half a million of enthusiastic and militant members, and powerful and hardened mass organizations, about which no one could have dreamed on 1 january 1959. [applause]

The proclamation of our socialist Constitution and the creation of the People's Government represent an extraordinary step forward in the decentralization of the state, the most direct participation of the masses in the country's management. It is a formidable school of government and an enormous impetus for provincial and municipal activities.

We have a gigantic intelligentsia, collective forces, and firm political, social, and state institutions at our disposal. What will we not be capable of doing in coming years? [applause] Without a doubt, our future is brilliant, but peace is needed for that, and peace in the world and in our region is being threatened.

Since the beginning of the adventurous, irresponsible, and warmongering policy of the present U.S. Administration, tensions throughout the world have increased. If we recall the crisis created in 1962 when 42 intermediate range missiles were deployed in Cuba, one can understand the seriousness implied by the deployment of 572 strategic nuclear missiles near the borders of the USSR and other countries of the socialist camp.

The wild attempt to do away with the nuclear balance inevitably provokes the need for adopting just responses. The negotiations between the USSR and the United States have consequently been broken. The U.S. military budgets since the present administration came into power and its warmongering policy of military supremacy have broken all existing records, and a colossal arms race is about to begin.

All of this is taking place in the midst of the most acute economic crisis that the world has endured in the past 50 years, at a time when unemployment is growing in developed capitalist nations and in underdeveloped countries as if it were an epidemic, at a time when the foreign debt is becoming unbearable and unpayable for the Third World. Mr Reagan will not be able to assert that with those actions he is increasing U.S. security; on the contrary, the world is becoming much more unsafe for all peoples, including that country's people.

Many are the persons who believe, supported by solid scientific arguments, that mankind will not be able to survive a total nuclear war, not only because of direct destruction but because of the contamination of water, soil, and the atmosphere as well as the colossal ecological disasters it would bring about. Someone has said that the survivors would envy the dead.

Only irresponsible, ignorant, and crazy people can lead world policy into that precipice. As a part of the world, we are threatened by that danger. However, in addition, the peoples of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and especially Latin America are threatened by the policy of world gendarme, the war hysteria, and imperialism's aggressive behavior.

The brutal and treacherous invasion of Grenada, the lies and pretexts used to justify that monstrous crime demonstrate the cynism, the immorality, the lack of scruples, and the absolute scorn for international law and nations' sovereignty of the present U.S. Government. Added to this are other aggravating factors, such as the crude manner in which U.S. public opinion was misled -- the presentation of that repugnant action as a great victory and the belief that such practices of banditry and international terrorism could bring Cuba, Nicaragua, and the revolutionary movement in Central America to their knees. [applause]

The same people who arm and advise the genocidal gangs in El Salvador are the ones who equip and command the mercenary gangs attacking Nicaragua from Honduran territory. They invade and occupy Grenada. They encourage and support the South African racists against Angola.

They bomb Lebanon and militarily harass Syria. The right of peoples, international laws, the United Nations, the accords, the agreements, and international public opinion mean nothing to this type of new barbarian, Nazi-fascist, blackmailer by nature, who are inside deeply cowardly, opportunistic, and calculating. Like their Hitlerian predecessors, they underestimate and look down on the capacity for struggle and sacrifice, the invincible patriotic strength, and the moral and spiritual values of peoples. [applause]

A Vietnam, with its millions of Vietnamese victims and dozens of thousands of dead North Americans, was necessary for the imperialists to learn a lesson about the limit of their possibilities and strength. Reagan wants to make the U.S. people forget this lesson, even at a risk that may range from new Vietnams to nuclear holocaust. Today the United States can give itself the luxury of invading Grenada, economically embargoing and threatening two small nations like Cuba and Nicaragua, and showing its claws and teeth in El Salvador and Central America. However, the system of imperialist domination in Latin America is in crisis. The rightist military dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and other countries -- the last recourse of imperialism and capitalism -- have noisily failed, leading those nations to ruin and economic collapse. Of the Brazilian miracle, there is nothing left but $100 billion of foreign debts and constant reports of social calamities, unemployment, hunger. inflation, drops in the overall standard of living, child mortality, sickness, and assaults on marketplaces by the people.

So-called bourgeois representative democracy is also in crisis, smothered by inefficiency, corruption, social impotence, unrepayable debts, and economic ruin. Unemployment, insecurity, and hunger are growing like a plague.

Behind are the illusions of reform and the discredited and onerous remedies of transnational investments. Structural and social changes are inevitable. They will take place sooner or later, and will be deeper to the extent that the crisis -- which is not simply a short-range problem -- grows deeper and more insurmountable. Cuba can no more export the revolution than the United States can prevent it. [applause] If this is so, will they, by chance, embargo and intervene all Latin America in the future?

Does Reagan imagine that Brazil is the size of Grenada? One way or the other, the United States will have to resign itself to coexist with different social and economic systems and independent countries in this hemisphere. [applause]

The imperialists are mistaken if they think they can obtain concessions from Cuba or make it kneel with threats or aggression. This is not merely valid for the generation that waged the war of liberation and the revolution: This is and will be a firm and unavoidable principle of the new generations which, in the face of all predictions, illusions, and presages by the imperialists, are growing and being educated in an evermore intransigent and revolutionary spirit. [applause]

Our fatherland will never refuse to work for peace, to discuss and resolve differences through negotiations, without ever renouncing an atom of its morals, its dignity, its sovereignty, and its principles. Our fatherland will never deny its cooperation to formulas that may help overcome tension in our area and the world. We feel that it is an unavoidable duty of all peoples and their statesmen to struggle for the future and survival of humankind, which has never before been so mortally threatened.

We need peace. To our people, peace means a brilliant and safe future. However, peace is not won with capitulation or concessions to imperialist aggressiveness. Concessions to the aggressor only stimulate its morbid designs and open the way to the yoke, oppression, and surrender.

If after its sad feat in Grenada imperialism believes that we Cubans are weaker, this is because it is blinded by stupidity. The Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Salvadorans have multiplied their patriotism, the spirit of struggle, and their revolutionary conscience. They have multiplied their scorn and hatred for the bloody methods and the policy of the empire. Each new misdeed it undertakes will be even costlier, more difficult, and more impossible.

The revolutionaries' fear of the risks and sacrifices implied in imperialism's threats has never existed, and now exist less than ever. [applause]

It falls to us to speak on behalf of our people. The blood shed by the heroic collaborators who fell in Grenada will never be forgotten. [long applause]

I hope that the imperialists will not forget, either, how those men neither trembled nor hesitated to fight against the best U.S. troops, even though they were 1,000 miles away from their homeland under conditions of absolute inferiority in both numbers and weapons. [applause]

And just as they neither trembled nor hesitated, as our revolution neither trembled nor hesitated when it fell to it to fulfill honorable internationalist missions [applause], which it carried out with exemplary valor and dignity, there will be even less trembling and hesitation if the time ever comes for our people to defend their own land and their own lives. [applause, shouts with rhythmic applause]

Alongside the heroic combatants of our glorious revolutionary Armed Forces, our men and women, elderly and young people will take up weapons to give the aggressors a lesson that they will never forget, and to set an example that will move the world and shake the empire. [applause]

We have said that production and defense are our current fundamental watchwords. They do not contradict each other in the slightest, but rather they complement each other. The more combative a people are, the more aware and determined to fight for their homeland, the more they will work and dedicate themselves to the work of the revolution and to their country's development. The more production and services are developed; the more we fight for the well-being, the future, and the happiness of our compatriots; the more painstaking our treatment of children in the schools and of the ill in the clinics and hospitals; the more excellent our attention is in all the other services in the country; the more brilliant our writers, artists, and scientists; the more outstanding our athletes; the more vigorous and efficient our party and our state; the more determination and heroism our people will show in defending the homeland and the revolution. [applause]

If at the beginning -- when all we had were ideas for which to fight -- our people both in Giron and during the October crisis did not hesitate for a single moment to take up arms or to fight with determination to the very last consequences, what would it be like now, when alongside our dignity, sovereignty, freedom, our homeland's independence, and the right to wage the revolution, we also have the entire work of the revolution and a beautiful future to defend? [applause]

Alongside the people and the Armed Forces, we will fight with dignity, ready to die and to win -- all of the cadres of both the party and the state, all the members of the Central Committee, and all the leaders of the revolution! [applause]

Santiago de Cuba, we have returned to you on this 25th anniversary, with a revolution turned into a reality and all the promises fulfilled! [applause] Today we grant you the title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba, and the Order of Antonio Maceo, that distinguished son of yours, who taught us that a combatant never gives up his struggle, that there can never be contemptible pacts with the enemy, and that nobody will ever be able to try to take over Cuba without dying in the struggle. [applause, shouts]

You accompanied us in the most difficult days. We had our Moncada here, our 30 November, our 1 January. We especially honor you today, and with you, all our people who tonight are symbolized in you. May your heroism, your patriotism, and your revolutionary spirit always be an example for all Cubans. May what we learned here always be our people's heroic slogan: Fatherland or death. May what we first experienced here on that glorious 1 January -- victory -- always, always await us! [applause]

Thank you, Santiago! [applause]

Castro Decorates Generals

FL022202 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, presented in a solemn ceremony the gold star of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Order of Maximo Gomez, First Grade, to Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez.

The ceremony took place at the former municipal town hall of the cradle of the revolution [Santiago de Cuba] in the presence of Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee and minister of the FAR, and members and alternate members of the Politburo and Secretariat.

The commander in chief read resolutions Nos 250 and 251, bestowing the decorations on Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the Politburo and deputy minister of the FAR, and Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Central Committee member. The documents describe the extraordinary merits of these revolutionary fighters.

Ramiro Valdes Address

FL302256 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 2055 GMT on 30 December begins live coverage from Parque del Carmen in Santa Clara, Cuba, of the ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Santa Clara, at which Interior Minister Ramiro Valdes Menendez is to be the main speaker.

The announcer says that many people are present. He says that Valdes is approaching the microphone accompanied by Raul Rodriguez Lopez, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Villa Clara Province.

A statue of the late revolutionary soldier Captain Roberto Rodriguez Fernandez, ("El Vaquerito") is unveiled by his mother. The Cuban national anthem is played at 2100 GMT. Ramiro Valdes is introduced and begins speaking at 2101 GMT.

The content of Valdes' speech is largely historical. Speaking of the people of Villa Clara during the Cuban Revolution, he says: "In those decisive moments, these people demonstrated their patriotic spirit and wrote a worthy page in the history of the revolution."

Later, Valdes says: "As we pointed out a few months ago, in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Las Villas Front, it is also necessary to bear in mind what those events meant in the face of Yankee intervention in our fatherland." He also praises Captain Roberto Rodriguez Fernandez.

Valdes' speech ends at 2123 GMT.

Soviet Congratulatory Message

PA012140 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers sent a congratulatory message to Cuban President Fidel Castro on the 25th anniversary of the 1 January 1959 revolutionary victory in our country.

The message asserts that the revolution opened the road to freedom and social progress for Cuban workers while encouraging other world peoples to continue the struggle for national and social liberation. It adds that the Cuban people have achieved important developments in the last 25 years of building their new society, developing their economy and culture, and strengthening their independence and the country's international relations.

The message points out that despite the international crisis provoked by the aggressive attitude of reactionary circles of U.S. imperialism, Cuba has strongly rejected Washington's provocations, and practices a foreign policy intended to protect and strengthen peace, curb the rash arms buildup, and advocate a peaceful solution to conflicts.

The congratulatory message sent to Fidel Castro by the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers relays their satisfaction, because Cuban-Soviet relations -- based on principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism -- are growing stronger every day for fruitful development of the close friendship and multilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Mexican Senator's Comments

FL021330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1110 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Mexican Senator Victor Manzanilla (Chasver) today said that the Cuban revolution, its successes, and its agenda for the future is a vivid example for the whole world of what self-determination really means. He also said that today Cuba is a model of dignity, virility, and the desires of a people to give themselves both a high standard of living as well as to be able to guarantee their liberties in accord with their own unique ways.

DPRK, SRV Observances

PA020305 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] A well-attended ceremony was held Friday at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, marking the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The solemn ceremony was presided over by Vice President Yim Chun-chu, Vice Premier Chong Chun-ki, and Ricardo Danza, Cuban ambassador to the DPRK. Chong Chun-ki said that the system of U.S. imperialist domination in Latin America was shaken to its roots by the victory of the Cuban revolution on 1 January 1959, which made possible the first socialist victory in that part of the world.

The peoples of the DPRK and Cuba, he added, are brothers in class and in arms, with strong, friendly ties in a common struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Another solemn ceremony to commemorate the Cuban revolution was held in Hanoi, where Nguyen Huu Tho, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, said that the Cuban people have made significant multilateral progress in the past 25 years in the construction of socialism, in the safeguarding of revolutionary gains, and in the implementation of their internationalist duties.

A 1-week Cuban film festival opened today in Minsk, capital of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

DPRK Congratulations Message

PA020320 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] DPRK President Kim Il-song has sent a congratulations message to Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. The greeting, which was also extended to the Cuban people, stressed our country's success in the last 25 years and emphasized that the Cuban revolution opened a new era in the liberation struggle of the Latin American peoples.

RAUL CASTRO INAUGURATES CAMAGUEY SUGAR MILL

FL021400 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1523 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Speech by Cuban FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro at a ceremony held in Santa Cruz del Sur, Camaguey Province, to inaugurate the Jesus Suarez Gayol Sugar Mill -- live]

[Text] Dear members of the family of Comrade Jesus Suarez Gayol, his mother, Aurora Gayol, and his son, Jesus Suarez, who within a year and a half will be a magnificent [words indistinct] [applause]

Comrades: On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the people's victory of January 1959, the happy event of putting into operation the second sugar mill that the revolution has built in this province once again brings us together.

This sugar mill, of which all of us can feel proud, is justly named after a revolutionary fighter, whose life was brief but fruitful, who was closely linked to the rebellious attitude of the students of Camaguey and to the initial efforts of developing the sugar industry in our country when the sugar mills became the property of the people.

The name of Jesus Suarez Gayol has become the banner of commitment for the workers of this modern industry, because it represents the persistent desire of serving the fatherland and the revolution. It is an honorable example of the policy of solidarity of our party.

His generous blood was the first to flow in the fight and was carried out by the internationalist unit headed by Che in Bolivia, and thus this outstanding man came to an heroic end.

I am sure that you will make every effort to enhance the name of Comrade Suarez Gayol by making the mill a synonym of a very high degrees of efficient production among all other mills throughout the country. [applause]

As it was explained in the resolution of the eighth plenum of the Central Committee, published today in GRANMA, the year that is coming to an end saw an unprecedented work effort by all of our people in which the economic and social objectives were obtained and guaranteed, despite the strengthening of the blockade, the unavoidable influence of the economic crisis of capitalism, and the severe climatic adversities.

The resolution of the eighth plenum, whose study is of primordial importance in order to appropriately channel our efforts during 1984, sums up the country's priorities and the basic objectives that are to be achieved.

It deals with goals and purposes that have been realistically conceived, but which at the same time will subject us to certain (?tensions), especially due to the influence of external factors that will always demand the dedication, dignity, and honor that must characterize the behavior of a revolutionary, of a militant, of the cadres, and of the leaders when they have to face commitments.

This style of life [estilo] characterizes the unselfish efforts that are used in the transformation process, the dedication to work, and the successes of the people of Camaguey, who on this 25th anniversary can now appropriately reflect on and evaluate the efforts that have been made in Camaguey during the revolutionary stage, the most fruitful period in the fatherland's history, in which the aspirations of the forefathers and forgers -- who, with a heroism without name, fought against the colonialism, tyranny, and imperialist domination that reigned in the past -- of the Cuban essence and nation have now become reality.

By inaugurating, in the land of Camaguey, this mill -- which is a symbol of the times that our fatherland is living -- we recall the very rich history that Camaguey has had in approximately half a millennium [milenio] in which it has forged a combative tradition, which, with extraordinary drive and greatness, has been demonstrated by the figure of the most gallant son of rebellious Camaguey: Ignacio Agramonte. [applause]

The example he gave was multiplied in the contribution of courage given by the best sons of this land to that wonderful dawn of January 1959.

The revolution, headed by Fidel, gave the country back its dignity, the sovereignty that had been stolen by Yankee interference and intervention; it put an end to the plundering of our national wealth; it put an end to capitalism; and it opened the door for great strides in economic and social development -- dedication to the health sector, the concern for material welfare, and the very big stride that has been made in the cultural and educational fields.

It is significant that the people of Camaguey commemorate the first 25 years of the revolution here in this place, which shows the very deep changes brought about by the revolution, changes that have turned areas like this one, which were once esteemed [preferidas] into areas of dynamic economic and social development. This agroindustrial complex is a wonderful example of this development.

With great satisfaction we have visited with the people of Camaguey during the past few days. Once again we can observe the multiple transformations that have occurred in this province, which is implementing an ever-increasing and successful economic and social development plan.

The inauguration of works during these past few days are a part of this plan. The cost of these works that have been inaugurated in the 13 municipalities of Camaguey amounts to more than 120 million pesos, and they include 25 large works that will provide economic and social benefits. This sugar mill and the fourth unit of the 10 October thermoelectirc plant in Nuevitas top the list. [applause]

In addition to the works that have already been mentioned, a cement producing plant, two meat packing plants, a canning plant, and a pasteurizing plant have been built; and a food processing plant [combinado alimenticio] and a fishery complex have, among others, been built in Nuevitas.

This unstoppable development continues thanks to a very large investment process, and, among other works, it includes: a brewery, new units for the 10 October thermoelectric plant, a third sugar mill, a meat processing complex [combinado carnico], Camaguey's machine shop, and others that give this region an industrial prospect while it preserves and develops its agricultural potential that is the province's base.

During the course of the past 7 years, since 1976 to date, investment amounting to 2 billion pesos has been made in this province. The value of gross production has increased by 500 million pesos. Sugar production increased by 400,000 tons, and during this (?harvest) it must reach 1,000,000 tons of sugar. [sentence as heard] [applause]

In other words, the conditions have been set to allow the people of Camaguey to produce 1,000,000 tons of sugar this year, for the first time in their history. Now everything depends on your efforts. Such is the tradition in the land of the major that we have no doubts that you will carry out your mission in producing the tons of sugar that have been assigned to you. [applause]

When I was explaining this continuous development, carried out with a large investment process, to you, and when I was talking about the works that are currently being carried out, I mentioned a brewery. This brewery will cost 33 million pesos. It will be built with the technology and the magnificent cooperation of the workers and the government of the GDR. [applause]

The brewery's equipment will cost 23 million pesos, and the rest, 10 million pesos, will be used for building the brewery and installing the equipment. This brewery, once it has been built -- as soon as it is ready and if you build it with the perfection of this Suarez Gayol sugar mill -- will be able to produce beer a week after it has been inaugurated. [applause]

I know nothing about brewing beer, but the brewery will be built, as was this sugar mill, which started cutting cane on the 27th and which has already produced its first 50 tons of sugar -- and this here is its first small bag -- which is for Fidel. [applause]

This is why I say that I have no doubts that we will be drinking beer, and a good quality beer at that -- quality must be guarded from the beginning -- a week after the plant has been inaugurated. This brewery will produce 50,000 cartons of beer per day. Do the beer drinkers know how many beers that is? At least one carton of beer. [as heard] It will produce 50,000 cartons of beer per day, which represents 45 percent of current production.

We must see if we can do away with the queues for beer, those beer fountains. In other words, and in the end why is this important? I also say it, jokingly of course, to tell the peopel of Camaguey that they must not think they are going to drink all the beer produced by this brewery. They do not eat all the meat they produce. They produce 70,000 tons of meat per year.

The matter is as follows: Talking with the top leaders of the provincial party and government over the past few months and this week during visits to several parts of the province, they have promised me -- and they have promised me this in several places -- that the beer from Camaguey will be ready for the Third Party Congress. [applause]

At the beginning, I interpreted this as a joke. There are less than 2 years to go before the Party's First Congress meets. Our congresses always begin on 17 December, the Third Congress. All of them have started on that day. [paragraph as heard]

I asked them: Will you allow me to say that in public? They said yes, certainly. [I asked them:] Are you willing to let me say that if you do not finish the brewery, if we cannot drink that beer at the Third Congress, that we propose to a Plenum of the Central Committee that we postpone the Third Congress? This will be the responsibility of the people of Camaguey. Your leaders accepted this and said yes. Now I want to hear your opinion. [shouts of: "Yes"]

This commitment is much more serious than when we had a year's delay with this sugar mill. The leaders are going to give support to this endeavor. They are already seeking support. This is correct; this shows the party's skill.

However, the commitment is serious. We are going to say this publicly. It will be published. Whether we postpone the congress if you do not finish the brewery on schedule is your responsibility. If you are late, we will give you another 14 days, until 31 December. We will drink water during the congress, even water of the beer here, even though it will not have matured. Water from the beer of Camaguey.

Thus, everything is clear. It is a matter for the people of Camaguey, for some of the organizations of the state's central administration. We have some of the ministers with us today, such as Comrade Lopez, the minister for construction; Comrade Irma Sanchez, president of the State Committee for Technical and Material Supply; Comrade Diocles Torralba, minister of the sugar industry, who is also going to give us support; and even the minister for the fish industry, who is around somewhere, even he will have something to do. Fernandez Cuervo, eh. [as heard] [applause]

Of course, the central government, the competent authorities, and our brothers from the GDR will also cooperate in speeding up the equipping of the brewery. In other words, we take this as an agreement. Those who are in agreement here, lift your hands. Do we vote in favor of Santa Cruz, or do we vote in favor of the province as a whole? [shouts of: "Camaguey"] In favor of Camaguey, it is then. The commitment is made. [applause]

The deadline for finishing the brewery is either 15 December or 31 December. If you finish on the 15th, all the better, because those of us who are here today will come for its inauguration, and 2 days later, on the 17th, we will have the inauguration of the Third Congress of our party.

In other words, in the passage just before I started talking about the beer, I was saying that during these past 7 years, 2 billion pesos have been invested in the province. The province, in turn, has responded with this effort of increasing gross production by 500 million pesos and by increasing sugar production from 600,000 to 1 million tons, a figure that we will begin this year, and achieve as of next year, beginning tomorrow.

Camaguey is also demonstrating a satisfactory growth in the agricultural sector. For example: This year -- I am not going to compare this year's figures with last year's, so as not to load this brief speech with figures -- 136 million liters of milk have been produced; 180 million eggs; 520,000 quintals of citrus fruits; more than 2 million quintals of vegetables; 1.5 million quintals of rice; and 70,000 tons of meat have also been produced this year.

In addition, hydraulic capability has increased by nearly 100 percent since the victory of the revolution. The number of highways has been tripled, and the generation of electricity has been multiplied by five times the amount that was generated during the capitalist era. Ports have been modernized. The communications service has been improved. The amount of exportable products has increased.

There is now nothing left of the Camaguey that was dominated by a land-owning bourgeoisie, where 35 landowners including several U.S. monopolies were the owners of 42 percent of the land in the six provinces of Amaguey and Ciego de Avila. In other words, 35 landowners were the owners of nearly all the sierras of Camaguey and Ciego de Avila, and 465 families of the old Camaguey were in possession of more than 60,000 caballerias that today are the property of the people.

That type of feudal ownership has been done away with forever by the fervor for work of a revolutionary people, who in 25 years have done more than was done in approximately 500 years of prior history.

I recall that Comrade Fidel, when commemorating the 24th anniversary of the assault against the Moncada Barracks 6 years ago, referred to the dozens of works that the revolution and the effort of the people of Camaguey have given to this province, and he stressed that today it can be said that Camaguey is the symbol of the revolutionary spirit of work and struggle that exists throughout the country. Here the comrades that have fallen in the struggle are honored with facts, not words.

I say this because I was impressed by what had been done up to that time 6 years ago. The very brief list of fundamental projects that I mentioned a minute ago were implemented after those words were said. The figures pertaining to the industrial and agricultural sectors, although they are significant and revealing, only express the quantitative aspect of the impetuous economic development that is underway in Camaguey. Therefore, in order to obtain an overall picture, it is necessary to resort to the advances that have been made in other spheres of social development, for example, education.

One of every three people in Camaguey is studying in one of the more than 1,000 centers in the province. As a revealing piece of data, it is necessary to point out that hundreds of young people from more than 40 nations are also studying in Camaguey, something that could never have happened in the past. A similar number of teachers from Camaguey are teaching in eight nations of the so-called Third World. In addition, the Camaguey of today has approximately the same number of students at the higher level of education that the country had in total during the capitalist era. [applause]

The province has 23 scientific and technical units, whose researchers dedicate themselves to scientific work in areas that are truly decisive for the national economy. There are approximately 900 sports complexes that have approximately 500 teachers who are experts in 30 sports. There is also the fact that the province occupied the second place in winning medals during the Central American Games and the fourth place in the Pan American Games. [applause] It occupies one of the first places in the country due to the results that it has obtained in the national sports sector.

And the 13 provinces of Camaguey have their basic cultural institutions, and artistic and cultural activities are being expanded.

Regarding the health sector, there are 22 hospitals, 23 clinics, 6 rural medical posts, 14 stomatoligical clinics, 1 laboratory for hygiene, 6 homes for mothers, 8 old folks homes, 5 eye clincs, 4 production units, and 13 research centers for a population of 684,949 inhabitants.

The reduction in the child mortality rate is an example that demonstrates the results of the efforts in the health sector. The child mortality rate during 1982 amounted to 22 in 1,000 deaths [as heard] in other words, 22 deaths for every 1,000 born infants, and this rate was reduced this year to 14.4 deaths for every 1,000 infants born. [applause] We also have nephrology intermediate and intensive care units for children and adults.

Entire countries of the underdeveloped world, which have much larger populations than Camaguey, regretfully cannot count on such resources.

The efforts that are being made in Camaguey to ensure the smooth development of its municipalities and villages must certainly be highlighted, for it has achieved the advance of the more backward areas and placed them at the level of those which have achieved the most important advances, but without letting any one area stagnate.

This means that the characteristics of each of the territories must be taken into account, and that their problems must be evaluated so that the various types of activity that will be most advantageous will be favored. Some of these efforts are expressed in the development that the local industrial sector has achieved. Their contribution to the territory's economy is now significant.

There is also a marked concern in Camaguey to jealously look after, together with the great and decisive problems of the social sector, those things that have to do with improving the material welfare and the quality of the standard of living of the population, such as all that is related to recreation, rest, vacations, the conditions of the lodgings for workers, and social nutrition.

The best of these efforts, in general, are carried out based on many initiatives, desire to resolve, imagination, and local resources obtained through savings and the best use of existing resources. I must insist on stressing that in our society no effort is total if it is not directed at making the lives of persons -- the center of socialism's preoccupations -- happier, fuller, and more satisfying.

It must be clearly stated that this concern must be transformed into a basic indicator of the efficiency of the enterprises' efforts. The center of attention of the local agencies of the People's Government, and to a certain extent, the party's real influence, are the unions and mass organizations.

It is inconceivable that there might be enterprises with a good production while having a workers' dining area in shambles, or a municipality or town in development, where after working hours, its people cannot enjoy some recreation, rest, or simply go for a walk.

The residents of Camaguey have many reasons for being satisfied with the result of the work carried out in the construction of the Jesus Suarez Gayol sugar mill, with which the province's sugar production is increased by 100,000 tons. In this factory, whose construction costs amounted to 100 million pesos, including social projects and related structures, we have applied the experiences gained from the sugar mills that began operations in recent years in other provinces of the country. By doing this, the original project has been substantially improved.

The efficiency and workmanship shown in the construction of the Suarez Gayol [sugar mill] has been truly exemplary. An example of this is that since the beginning of the work, only 3 years were needed to complete an industry of this size, which demonstrates the skills we have been consolidating in such an important field of our future economic development. In this sense, we must stress the extraordinary effort made by the workers and the cadres of the Sugar Industry Ministry [applause], who were capable of triumphantly emerging from the difficult test to which they were subjected in April 1982 when the project was nearly a year late in schedule, and they pledged to complete it with required quality for today's date. Today we are here precisely because they have fulfilled their pledge.

It is really encouraging to know that more than 40 percent of the technological equipment and, of course, the civilian work related to their installation was carried out with national resources. Some 36 percent of the resources came from the socialist area, and only a very small percentage came from the capitalist area. These statistics exemplify what can be done with our own effort, depending less and less on the fluctuations of the capitalist market on our economy.

With the inauguration of the Jesus Suarez Gayol sugar mill, new and equally brilliant perspectives of change and modernization open up for this area of La Jagua and other neighboring areas located near the agroindustrial complex. This increasingly contributes to and transforms the appearance of the former inhospitable town of Santa Cruz, where in recent years the revolution has undertaken a plan of socioeconomic development that includes the construction of roads and railways, power and telephone lines, and the strengthening of the local fishing industry -- above all, since the construction of a modern center, with a cost of 11 million pesos and eight communities with more than 100 dwellings each, which are part of the 48 towns under construction in Camaguey Province just for the sugar and livestock-agricultural industries.

During the days of capitalism, Santa Cruz had 22 small primary schools, and today it has 106 with more than 15,000 students, including 3,000 basic secondary school students. At the present time more than 90 percent of the territory has electric power. Today Santa Cruz del Sur is a symbol of the new era. It has the biggest shipyard in the province, and its sugar production level constitutes a solid economic base for the entire province.

Nothing was left in the area, a victim of two enormous disasters which virtually destroyed the settlers' hopes for a better future -- at the floods caused by the raging sea in 1932, which destroyed hundreds of homes and killed thousands, and the worst of all misfortunes, the injustice and exploitation endured during the bourgeois republic.

This La Jagua [suburb of Santa Cruz] which we see here, whose citizens are proud of its transformation, was a forgotten area during the prerevolutionary era, mostly populated by Antillean laborers, excessively exploited because they were foreigners, workers, and black.

The anti-labor repression was also crudely manifested in this area and took a valuable life in communist Amancio Rodriguez [applause], a representative of the most legitimate aspirations of social justice and the people's confrontation against the pro-imperialist tyranny, which deprived this area's workers of the right to join a union. But for Santa Cruz del Sur and this remote place of La Jagua the doors opened on 1 January 1959 to a process of great economic, political, and social reforms.

Suffice to say that with the revolution, the first professionals arrived in this region, the first physicians of this region. Today, just in the agro-industrial complex we are inaugurating, there are 33 engineers and more than 200 intermediate level technicians.

The construction of the Jesus Suarez Gayol sugar mill represents for this area -- which has magnificent agricultural conditions with a yield of more than 80,000 arrobas per caballeria, maintained since 1972 -- a new means for development which was never imagined it its history of injustice and exploitation.

For sometime now I have been planning a tour of Camaguey Province, such as the one we conducted in the apst few days. In addition to observing the progress made by the province and learning about its difficulties, this tour has made us justifiably optimistic. The meeting we have held with workers from nearly all sectors, with children and youths at education centers, with administrative cadres and party leaders have reflected in all cases, without exception, a stimulating climate of work, struggle, devotion to work, personal responsibility, and conscious participation in the advance of the province and each of its municipalities.

In Camaguey's successes, we have observed the level of efficiency attained by the provincial and municipal government bodies, the cadres' prestige, and the growing influence of the party, based on a solid moral authority. Likewise, this visit confirms for us the resolve of the Cuban people to defend their honor, to preserve the sovereignty and independence we have gained, to never return to the past of ignominy and capitalist exploitation. This was demonstrated by the results of the Bastion 83 strategic exercises, whose experiences are being consistently applied, and the determined response of more than 90,000 Camaguey women [applause] who have voiced their willingness to join the Territorial Militia as part of the new half million being trained. This was noted a few moments ago when the president of this province's Federation of Cuban Women presented to us the album containing the already fulfilled commitment of the courageous women of Camaguey. [applause]

The march of the revolution in Camaguey, the encouraging results in the economic field and in social development, the revolutionary fervor, and the creativity which we have seen in Nuevitas, Santa Cruz del Sur, Vertientes, and the province's main municipality are inseparable from the untiring activity shown by the first party secretary, Comrade Lazaro Vazquez. [applause] Comrade Lazaro doubtlessly is a leader of acute political and revolutionary sensitivity, profoundly tied to the province. He devotes, with modesty and industry, all his energies, talent and capability to the development of the province and the well-being of its residents, constantly generating new initiatives and solutions, which is one of the greatest talents he has. [applause] He is always looking for solutions with great initiatives.

Just a few hours away from the commemoration of the first quarter century of our revolution, at this worthy scenario of effort and creative work, of consciousness and resolve which is Camaguey Province, we wish to reaffirm that, as we said a few days ago, with a people whose exceptional patriotic and revolutionary virtues have been tested during these past 25 years, who have been and are the doers par excellence in building and in the defense of the socialist fatherland [applause], with an increasingly more experienced and mature party which observes as its most essential principle remaining as close as possible to the masses, and with a chief like Comrade Fidel, our cause is invincible. [applause]

Long live the 25th revolution anniversary! Long live socialism! Long live the people of Camaguey Province! Long live Fidel! Fatherland or death, we shall win!

GRANMA ON RESOLUTION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

PA012031 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The Cuban newspaper GRANMA, in its Saturday edition, published the resolution approved by the Eighth Plenum of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, which was held on 20 December.

The document initially asserted that, despite the great economic difficulties that prevail in our country due to the imperialist economic blockade, the crisis that has shaken up capitalism, and the weather conditions during the first months of 1983, Cuba has fulfilled the basic goals of its social and economic development. The resolution noted the efforts of all the workers to fulfill the measures of the sixth plenum to improve efficinecy, savings, and austerity to the maximum degree possible.

In summing up the year that ends today, the Cuban communists stressed the 2 percent growth achieved in productivity, savings of 500,000 tons of oil, and a 10 percent increase in investments. Non-sugar exports also grew, and there were savings in imports of more than $42 million. An all-time record was achieved by the sugarcane cutters during 1983, and their millionaire movement [movimiento millonario] achieved great development. Agricultural production increased, and plans for the food, fishing, and other industries were carried out. Approximately 180,000 houses were built. Other agrarian, education, hydraulic, communications, and health works were also carried out. The number of doctors increased, and the child-mother death rates decreased. The document also mentioned the continuous increase in cultural, sports, recreational, and tourism activities. The document likewise praised our people's internationalist role, and the women's participation in the defense of our homeland, mainly in the militias and territorial troops.

After analyzing 1983, the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee urged all the workers, students, peasants, intellectuals, youths, pioneers, and the people in general to follow a series of economic, political, and social measures that render homage to the 25th anniversary of the victory of our revolution. It proposed a 4 or 4.5 percent growth of the overall socail product to surpass that of 1983; the adoption of measures that guarantee savings in electric energy and fuel consumption; and a continuation of the process to replace imports from the capitalist sector.

The eighth plenum's resolution stated that the present sugar harvest should be one of the greatest in history, both in quantity and quality. It also issued a call to develop our country's export funds, mechanical production, and oil and nickel exploitation. It pointed out the need to continue improving the people's living conditions, which includes an increase in food supplies, textile and footwear production, and health and educational services. It also issued a call to improve the quality of transportation and postal communication service.

The eighth plenum's resolution urged the union movement, the National Association of Private Farmers, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women, and the Union of Young Communists to exert themselves and mobilize the people toward the development of national plans.

The document asserted that the party will continue to strengthen its Marxist-Leninist line, its links with the masses, its internationalist essence, and its friendship with the other socialist and progressive countries. It also stated Cuba's support for the peace efforts being carried out in Central America, its support for the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua, and its rejection of U.S. imperialism's aggressive policy.

Finally, the resolution stated that within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution's victory, we will all remember the internationalists who died heroically in Grenada, and we will be like them at work and in combat.

GROUP OF TEACHERS PREPARES TO GO TO NICARAGUA

PA311546 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Humberto Miguel Fernandez, a member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Cienfuegos Province, has bade farewell to a group of intenrationalist teachers who will work in Nicaragua. Several professors who contributed their important cooperation in Nicaragua were honored at this event, at which it was stated that there is confidence that the new contingent will fulfill its objectives as worthy representatives of the Cuban people.

BARBADOS

MINISTRY SEEKS TEACHERS TO WORK IN GRENADA

FL302350 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 30 (CANA) -- The Barbados Ministry of Education is looking for 16 teachers to fill vacancies in the profession in Grenada following the U.S.-led invasion last October, a ministry official said here today. The ministry official said that they were now processing applications to enable the teachers to leave Barbados in time for the beginning of the new term, which starts on January 9.

The official said the teachers were required to teach at the fifth form level. He said that five mathematics teachers are needed, two in chemistry, three in physics, one for biology and chemistry, three for English language and English literature, and one each for business education and one for Spanish. The assignments are expected to last for one year.

GRENADA

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL TO VISIT

FL302358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 30 (CANA) -- Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal is expected in Grenada next week on his first visit since last October's U.S.-led invasion, state-owned Radio Grenada said today. Ramphal, who arrives on Wednesday, will hold talks with Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, head of the interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, and other members of the caretaker administration. Radio Grenada did not say how long the former Guyana foreign minister will be in St George's.

Ramphal has expressed his regret about the October invasion that followed the bloody Army overthrow of the island's leftist government.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who supported the intervention by contributing troops, accused Ramphal of trying to pressure the Grenada authorities to withdraw foreign forces from the island before the Commonwealth Secretariat gave further technical assistance to the island.

The services of Brathwaite have been provided under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

POLICE COMMISSIONER ON PLANS TO REBUILD FORCE

FL311537 Bridgetown CANA in English 1241 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 31 (CANA) -- Newly appointed commissioner of police in Grenada, Barbadian Mervyn Holder, has said here that his intention is to help the island build a professional unit.

Holder said in an interview he believed that a force of about 625 men would be sufficiently large to police the island but said a decision on the number of policemen needed was still to be taken. He also said that the Royal Grenada Police Force, which is expected to be in charge of security on the island when the Caribbean peacekeeping force is withdrawn, has already received applications from about 300 applicants. The peacekeeping force has been here since the October 25 U.S.-led military intervention following a coup six days earlier.

The new Grenada Police Force, he said, intends to recruit persons who are "receptive" to instructions and who can conduct themselves in a professional manner after being trained as a policeman. On the question of training of recruits, he said that 30 Grenadian policemen would be leaving the island on January 8 for Barbados to attend the Regional Police Training Centre (RPTC) there. These persons, he said, would be receiving 20 weeks of training which would equip them for their role as policemen. Another batch of 20 special police officers would also be going to Barbados in the coming months to undergo a four-week refresher course, he added. "This sort of refresher course would be the necessary shot in the arm for the supervision (work) which seems so lacking at this point in time," Holder said. "When these people return from the refresher course, we would hope to see them putting into operation many of the things that they have learned in Barbados," he added.

OCTOBER 1983 COUP DETAINEES TO BE CHARGED

FL311900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 31 (CANA) -- The office of the Grenada Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is bringing in a team of lawyers from the Caribbean to help draw up formal charges to be laid against detainees linked to last October's bloody ouster of the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government, an official said today. The official, attached to DPP's office, was unable to say when the lawyers will arrive. But he said the question of charges was being given "full attention" and charges will be laid with "no undue delay." Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet, along with an uncertain number of civilians, were killed in the coup.

There are over 30 persons in detention at the top security Richmond Hill prison, overlooking this scenic seaside capital city, in connection with the Army coup. The list includes ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, whose tussle with Bishop for leadership of the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) sparked the political upheaval. General Hudson Austin, head of the 16-man junta that seized power in the coup, is also in detention along with his colleagues, as well as members of the so-called Coard faction of the NJM Central Committee. United States-led multinational forces invaded Grenada on October 25 to topple the military junta and restore order on the Caribbean island.

CHURCHMEN ASK U.S. COMPENSATION FOR WAR DAMAGES

FL021801 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 2 (CANA) -- Churchmen here have asked Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to raise with the United States mission on the island the question of compensation for persons who suffered property damage as a result of the U.S.-led invasion last October. This was disclosed today by Alan Lagrenade, chairman of the Disaster, Emergency Relief, and Welfare (DERW) sub-committee of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC). Lagrenade said his committee decided to ask Sir Paul to deal with this matter through the American mission in Grenada because the U.S. "claims office" here is already closed.

"We thought an approach should be made through the mission to find out what the Americans are really doing, what their policy is," he said, "because if the Americans are not going to accept responsibility, then some other means should be found to assist the people whose property was damaged." Lagrenade said the committee did not have an estimate of the total value of damage done at the time of the American intervention, which was aimed at toppling a military junta, but several persons have had their houses badly damaged or destroyed.

One U.S. official, addressing the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, had indicated that Washington would pay for this damage, Lagrenade said, but subsequently another one, addressing the Rotary Club of Grenada, had said no claims would be entertained for "combat damage."

The DERW chairman said the matter needed to be cleared up because it had actually been reported that claims under 5,000 East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) would be settled in Grenada by the mission, claims between 5,000 and 25,000 dollars would be handled by the embassy in Barbados, and those over 25,000 would be sent to Washington. Lagrenade said the matter had been taken up three weeks ago with Sir Paul, who said it had been passed on to the Advisory Council running Grenada for attention. "If nothing comes of this soon," the DERW chairman said, "we should get our head office in Barbados to contact church organisations in the states on behalf of the people who lost their homes because I am quite sure if the American public knew that lots of people had their homes very badly damaged or destroyed by the troops, and the American policy is not to help with what they say is "combat damage," the American public will subscribe to...this cause." Lagrenade said he has had no word from the Advisory Council, but his committee will wait to see the outcome of their approach before taking further action.

JAMAICA

SEAGA'S OPPOSITION SENATE APPOINTEE QUITS PNP

FL021600 Bridgetown CANA in English 2220 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 1 (CANA) -- Charles Sinclair, one of the two persons the leadership of the People's National Party (PNP) was moving to have expelled for accepting Prime Minister Edward Seaga's invitation to sit on the opposition benches in the Senate, has pre-empted the outcome by resigning from the party. The other, PNP life-member and president of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), Courtney Fletcher, felt the party's executive council had "over-reacted" in recommending to the national executive council the withdrawal of his life-membership and his expulsion.

Neither man had anything to do with the PNP since it lost the 1980 general election, the PNP said, though they had not renounced membership. The PNP boycotted the December 15 general election because it was called on an outdated voters list and without the government implementing agreed reforms to eliminate bogus voting.

With the government controlling all the seats in the lower house, Sinclair, himself a former Senate president, and Fletcher were among eight persons named by the prime minister to sit in the upper chamber as independents to provide the government with an opposition. This eight would normally have been appointed by the leader of the opposition, but when there is no such person, as is the present case in Jamaica, his functions fall to the prime minister.

Sinclair, who had been a PNP member for 14 years, said loyalty to his country and a love and respect for the Jamaican people "clearly manifested during my sojourn with the PNP would be the major characteristics in the service I render in and out of Parliament." Fletcher said in a statement that he had accepted out of a desire "to ensure that the well-being of the farming community is represented" and that despite the PNP boycott the business of the country went on.

The PNP made it clear that no one in the Senate could speak on its behalf and has been pressing for new elections on an updated voters list and with the reforms instituted. A recent opinion poll showed that 70 per cent of Jamaicans feel elections should be called when the new list is ready by mid-year. Another survey showed that the PNP would get 55 per cent of the votes in an election with an updated list.

BURNHAM WARNS OF SUBVERSION, HOPEFUL ON ECONOMY

FL021230 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 1 Jan 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 1 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham today warned Guyanese to expect more attempts at subversion, at destabilisation, and at ousting the government this year. But in his New Year's message broadcast over the state-owned Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, Burnham held out hopes for an improvement in some sectors of the economy, hard hit last year by shortfalls in production and revenue.

"Nineteen eighty-four should see a greater degree of decentralization and devolution of powers and responsibilities to the regions and other democratic organs," he remarked. Burnham said the new year seemed promising, but warned: "It is for us Guyanese to turn the promise into fact. There will be obstacles. There will be attempted subversion as we witnessed last year in the bauxite industry." Several bauxite workers went on strike last year over food shortages and a reduction of working hours.

"There will be attempts at destabilisation and conspiracies such as that by some traitors in Canada and the United States, where a group of former Guyanese planned to assassinate government leaders and members of the government, and to establish a fascist regime," Burnham said. Eight men were arrested last month in Canada and the U.S. on charges of plotting to overthrow the Guyana Government. "We have been aware of their machinations and are prepared for them. If they ever get beyond their puerile plotting and planning, and essay to land in Guyana, we shall wipe them out mercilessly," Burnham said.

The president also announced that steps would be taken this year to rehabilitate the bauxite industry, the country's number one foreign exchange earner.

Emphasis would also be placed on utilising agriculture, as well as Guyana's abundant forestry and mineral resources, Burnham said.

Reflecting on 1983, Burnham said Guyanese were forced to make greater use of the fruit from wild palms as a source of edible oil, and in addition started the manufacture of margarine entirely from local oils.

He said production of sugar, the number two foreign exchange earner, had been below target, primarily because of the rundown condition of some of the 10 sugar factories, nationalised from the giant British Booker Group in 1966.

Production of rice, which is the nation's number three foreign exchange earner, also fell below target, he said, and "the explanation has been the unavailability of sufficient land preparation equipment and somewhat unseasonal weather." Burnham said he had taken steps to overcome the lack of equipment. "It is imperative that our production in every field increases," he stressed.

He said that with regard to timber and wood production two major enterprises, one public and one private, should "move into gear" and contribute to the fulfilment of overseas contracts.

Burnham also disclosed that the 1984 budget would be presented this month. He said it would recognise and reflect the government's emphasis on agriculture which was endorsed by the special congress of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), and the just-concluded meeting of the supreme congress of local democratic organs.

JAGAN CALLS FOR INTENSIFICATION OF STRUGGLE

FL021927 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 2 (CANA) -- Marxist Guyana opposition leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, said today the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean were suffering because of the self-interest of their rulers. And in a new year's message, he called on Guyanese to intensify the struggle on all fronts, including the political and economic, for democracy, justice, bread, and social progress.

Said the veteran Guyana politician: "(While the ruling groups) prattle about patriotism, they pray at the altar of money and self-advancement."

"The people become more and more alienated. Instead of being the levers of change, they become the objects of a new form of paternalism," added the leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Jagan said the new year poses "grave dangers" for the people of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He referred to last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada to restore order after a bloody political crisis and the deployment by the U.S. of cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.

Havana Cites Jagan on U.S. Policy

PA020325 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Cheddi Jagan, secretary general of Guyana's People's Progressive Party, has denounced the U.S. Government's interventionist course in international affairs and demanded the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the territory of Grenada and other Central American and Caribbean countries. In a statement issued in Georgetown, Jagan condemned the increased U.S. military presence in Central America and the Caribbean and Yankee imperialism's attempts to impose its political and economic dictates in the region.

For its part, the newspaper CHRONICLE has charged that Washington has begun to train the regular armed forces of the Caribbean states that participated in the invasion of Grenada. It stated that with the help of its puppets, the White House is trying to isolate Guyana, which condemned the armed aggression against the Grenadian people.

U.S. sociologist Sidney Lug, one of the organizers of the committee Scientists Against the Grenada Invasion, has stated that President Ronald Reagan's government plans to turn that Caribbean country into a parade ground and colonial appendage by using the pretext that the Grenadian people are unable to govern themselves.